Today's
The Herald-Palladium
included inside

Dowagiac wrestling wins 9th straight district
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Dowagiac News

Established 1897 • Serving Dowagiac, Sister Lakes and Cassopolis **FEBRUARY 14, 2026** leaderpub.com • A publication of The Herald-Palladium **$4**

Hundreds of visitors descended on downtown Dowagiac for its 29th annual Ice Time Festival Saturday, Feb. 7.
Eileen Crouse / For Leader Publications

Frosty fun

29th annual Ice Time Festival returns to Dowagiac

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Hundreds of people visited downtown Dowagiac Saturday for its 29th annual Ice Time Festival.

The winter festival, a Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce event, will take place in the central business district, with some activities hosted by businesses in close proximity to downtown.

In addition to the ice sculptures on display, outside events included a timber carving demonstration, the return of Live Statue Robert Shangle and the annual Frozen Fish Toss Open Competition delighted visitors.

More photos on page A4!

Miss Dowagiac 2026 and her Court of Honor were stationed at the Dowagiac Area History Museum crafting Valentines with visitors. The Museum also hosted a reception unveiling the newly acquired "Gold Stove."

See **ICE TIME**, page A6

Oak + Ash BBQ wins 2026 Ice Time Chili Crawl

SUBMITTED

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce today announced the 2026 Dowagiac Ice Time Festival Chili Crawl winner is Oak + Ash BBQ.

The restaurant was one of seven competing in the event this past Saturday where most locations served well over 400 sample tastes.

Oak + Ash BBQ served up a Smoked Brisket Chili prepared by their Pit Master Shilpi Biswas. The tangy recipe offered a little, well balanced, spicy kick. Owners Chef Andrew and Bethany Ridenour stated that this chili is their house recipe and is offered as a regular menu item.

"I think it is really cool that a woman from Bangladesh ... is cooking TexMex/BBQ ... in the small city of Dowagiac," said Chef Andrew.

Jordan Anderson, Chili Crawl Chairperson, and Dowagiac Chamber Trustee, awarded the team the event's traditional trophy.

The Ridenours became owners of the restaurant in September 2025 and continue to expand the menu to include TexMex recipes and an all you can eat Friday Fish Fry, along with their smoked meat staple dishes. The restaurant, located at 109 S. Front Street, Dowagiac, is open seven days a week.

Photo provided
Jordan Anderson, Chili Crawl Chairperson, awarded the Ice Time Chili Crawl trophy to Oak + Ash Pit Master Shilpi Biswas. Also pictured: Oak + Ash owners Chef Andrew and Bethany Ridenour.

Dowagiac updates special event policy

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac City Council approved Monday a framework for permitting and managing community events held on city-owned property.

The approved special event policy outlines a standardized application and review process, requiring event organizers to submit a complete application at least 60 days in advance. Applications must include event details such as dates, attendance estimates, site maps, and plans for safety, traffic control, sanitation, utilities and cleanup.

"This special event policy really just solidifies processes and procedures that we've had in place for quite some time now," said Assistant City Manager Amanda Sleigh.

According to Sleigh, the only major difference from the previous policy is that applications are routed to relevant city departments for review, with smaller events – under 500 attendees – eligible for administrative approval and larger events requiring City Council consideration. Previously, each event had to be approved by the council no matter the size.

The tiered approach intends to balance efficiency with appropriate oversight.

"Any event with less than 500 people can be approved administratively to get a smoother process for some of those smaller events, but the larger events would still come to council for approval," she said.

In addition, the policy establishes operational requirements and responsibilities for event organizers, including insurance

See **DOWAGIAC**, page A6

Photo courtesy of Scott Rose
The Dowagiac City Council approved the city's updated special events policy Monday.

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Today's obituaries
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FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip or a quip? Call Frankly at 269-687-7700 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

■ Karoline Leavitt is right! This is "fake outrage." We have all become so numb by Trump's antics that nothing falls under shock and awe any longer.

■ Any time a Democrat opens his mouth, he is lying. Trump is doing great things for our nation.

■ Trump pardoned the January 6th people because it was a set-up job. Government agents stirred up all the trouble.

■ Where does the line between the Trump company and presidency exist?

■ Good job on bringing in Casey's to Niles! Great Pizza!

■ Term limits.

■ I remember when the Republican party was the party of fiscal responsibility and family values.

■ Democrats had years to secure the border and they failed miserably. Most smart Americans believe a secure border is a necessity.

WEATHER

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 42. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.

Washington's Birthday: Partly sunny, with a high near 51.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 54.

Tuesday Night: Rain likely, mainly after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Farkas' 'Sky Pads' bloom in Benton Harbor

Dowagiac artist's water-lily series on display at The Space In-Between

ABOVE: Los Angeles native Alli Farkas currently lives in Dowagiac.
LEFT: "Sky Pads" will be on display at The Space In-Between in Benton Harbor through Feb. 28.
Photos provided

By CATE CHRISTINIDIS
Paxton Media Group

BENTON HARBOR — Award-winning artist Alli Farkas was "born and bred" in Los Angeles.

But, with a degree in art from Occidental College, LA was not merely Farkas' birthplace, it was the breeding ground for her artistry.

Early in her artistic career, Farkas found inspiration in the annual Echo Park Lotus Festival, which, founded in 1972 as "The Day of the Lotus," honors the contributions of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures to the Los Angeles area.

"There was a park – it's called Echo Park – and it wasn't too far from my house," Farkas said. "And it had a huge display of lotus every summer, and tons of artists would come out and set up their little easels and their chairs and paint those lotuses every summer."

The result: her first foray into water-lilies – a 16-piece series, titled "Echo Park."

Following the deadly Northridge Earthquake in 1994, however, Farkas and her at-the-time husband left LA for the Chicago area. There, Farkas, a self-proclaimed "horse freak," resumed painting – this time, horse portraits and landscapes.

Still, Farkas has always been realistic about the financial instability of being an artist, insisting that art is not her career, but rather a "halfway hobby and halfway career."

Her career?

In 1980, Farkas began working in the TV industry as a news editor, continuing to explore her artistic creativity on the side. She continued to work in TV after her move to Illinois, but as the years progressed, consolidations and changes within the industry made work more scarce.

Farkas' next move, which landed her in Dowagiac, would prove to be life-changing.

"When I got to Michigan, everything changed," she said. "I met all kinds of people, accidentally or on purpose, who were interested in art, and a bunch of us formed Cass Area Artists in 2015."

Cass Area Artists, now a 501(c)(3), works to support the Michiana arts community, holding free artist exhibits twice a year, which include cash prizes for the artists.

However, Cass Area Artists was not the only positive to come out of Farkas' move to Michigan. Having settled on Dowagiac's Mill Pond, her fascination with water-lilies was unexpectedly rekindled.

"I can just walk out and look at the lake and look at what's in it," Farkas said. "And I had my camera with me, and I took a bunch of pictures. ... I hadn't really shot the photos for uniqueness. I wanted some nice shots that would give me a good sense of, you know, the shapes and whatever.

What she captured, however, was irrefutably unique – and it's been guiding her art for the past decade.

"When I took the pictures out of my camera, I noticed that the sky had been really cloudy that day, and the clouds were all reflected in the water, and it looked like the water-lilies were floating in the clouds instead of the water," she said.

According to Farkas, her current series, "Sky Pads," began taking shape on a hot, mid-summer day in 2016. After propping a blank canvas on a wheelbarrow, she poured a turpentine-paint mixture onto the canvas, letting gravity guide the flow of the paint. To Farkas' surprise, however, once the paint mixture had dried, it was no longer "smooth and fluffy," but "striated" – a perfect base to build upon.

"Sky Pads" is currently on display at The-Space-in-Between, 196 Water St., Benton Harbor, through Feb. 28. The gallery is open for browsing from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, with additional viewing available by appointment.

Since "Sky Pads'" inception, Farkas' work has been displayed in numerous local galleries, including the Box Factory for the Arts and Krasl Art Center. Most recently, however, she was awarded Best of Show 2D for her piece, "Sky Pads 41," at the Carnegie Institute for the Arts in Three Rivers.

Naturally, the last decade has also keyed Farkas in on the secret of sustaining a long-term project.

"You have to have to have a good sense of composition, first of all, because the placement is critical," she said. "So, you have to figure out where things are going to go, even if they're a different way in your photograph. ... And if you are unable to disconnect yourself from perfection, you will have a tough time as an artist."

With an impressive 41 pieces in the series so far, each exuding a sense of "calmness," "relaxation" and "peacefulness, Farkas said the finish line is nowhere in sight.

"I might have to – I hate to say this – I would have to go blind to stop," she said. "The whole thing is an adventure, and when you get to the end of it successfully, I mean, you just want to go around and just do a little hip-hop and say, 'Yes!'"

Meshing Farkas' themes of peace and relaxation with the spirit of Valentine's Day, a special showing of "Sky Pads" will be held from 4-8 p.m. Saturday at The Space In-Between, which shares an entrance with Harbor Pilates. The event, titled "Art for the Heart," will feature complimentary wine, chocolates and cheese, according to Curator John Gatto.

For more information, or to schedule a viewing, call 269-861-0030.

Contact: cchristinidis@TheHP.com, 932-0363

If You Go

What: "Art for the Heart," a special showing of Alli Farkas' "Sky Pads" series

When: 4-8 p.m. Feb. 14

Where: The Space In-Between, 196 Water St., Benton Harbor

How much: Free

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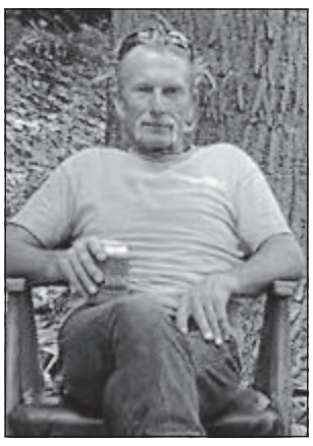
OBITUARIES

Lyle Bandurski

March 30, 1960 – February 9, 2026



Lyle F. Bandurski, 65, a resident of Niles, MI, passed away at his winter home in McComb, MS on February 9, 2026. No services are to be announced at this time.

Lyle was born on March 30, 1960 to the late Amil and Jean Bandurski. He was an avid Harley rider and loved to attend rallies around the country. He was a master slate roofer with Midland Engineering out of South Bend, IN over 40 plus years and received numerous national awards and recognitions including the National Roofing Association Highest Honors.

He traveled all over the country roofing, even going as far as working on the campus of Notre Dame, to Birmingham, to the state capital of Nebraska where he met his life partner Colleen. Lyle was a caretaker of the elderly in Niles where he spent the majority of his life. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his life partner Colleen Tworek of Niles, MI; his two brothers Stacy (Donna) Bandurski of Venice, FL and David (Marla) Bandurski of Bridgman, MI; his sister Gina (Dennis) Bowersox of Cleburne, TX; his beloved cat, Scaredy Cat; along with many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please help a neighbor or a person in need or the Humane Society in Niles, MI or South Bend, IN. As Lyle would say, pay it forward!

Jacob Bays

January 24, 1931 – February 6, 2026

Jacob E Bays, 95, of Niles, passed away peacefully early Friday, February 6, 2026 at Brentwood in Niles. Jacob was born January 24, 1931 to James and Ellen Bays in South Bend, Indiana. They then moved to Niles. He married the love of his life, Barbara Pingel on November 18th, 1950. Together they lovingly raised three children.

Jacob is preceded in death by both parents, wife Barbara, brothers David Bays (Mona) and Donald Bays, son Donald Bays, daughter and son in law Carol and Lee Kurty, granddaughter Jennifer Bays Antisdel. Surviving him are his daughter Judy Bays Brockway, brother James Bays Jr (Marilyn), grandchildren Shane Bays (Renee), Sarah Beckman, Michael Brockway (Lecia), Amy Larsen (Chad), Nikki Small (Michael), and fourteen great-grandchildren.

He grew up loving the game of baseball, and was a very talented pitcher. He played on Niles Viking baseball until he graduated from Niles High School in 1949. He then played on the Niles Independent baseball team, on the Berrien-Cass League with his brothers Jim and Dave Bays. They were on the first baseball team to play at Thomas Stadium and the first team to play a night game there. He also was drafted to the Chicago Cubs Minor League system in 1950 where he played briefly. He worked several years at Nibco in Elkhart, IN, in tool and dye until he retired in 1992.

Jacob was an avid fisherman and carpenter. He built a home in Cedarville, MI, where he lived briefly with his wife after retirement. His biggest legacy was his family. He was kind, compassionate, and a proud father and grandfather. He loved family time, vacations to Cedarville spending time on the lake with his family and fishing. He also loved coaching his son in baseball, and he especially loved attending sporting events for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by many that knew him.

Jacob will be laid to rest at Silverbrook Cemetery with his wife at a later date. A celebration of life will be held on March 1st, from 1:00-3:00pm, at the Niles FOP.

The family would like to thank Brentwood of Niles and Caring Circle Hospice for all of their compassionate care. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Janice Eady

November 30, 1954 – February 4, 2026

Janice Suzanne Eady, age 71, died at 2:08 pm February 4th, 2026 at Woodland Terrace-Niles, Michigan.

She was born in Detroit and attended school at Electric Light & Ferry Street schools, Niles, Blossomland Learning Center, Berrien Springs, Woodlands Behavioral Healthcare Network, Cassopolis & Gateway Services, and Benton Harbor. A force of nature from birth, Janice was a woman that never met a situation she couldn't escalate or out-argue. But most of all, she was fiercely loved by family and friends.

She is survived by her three brothers, Robert Eady of Lake Frederick, Virginia, Lynn Eady and wife Melanie of West Olive, Michigan, and Douglas Eady and husband Dwayne Trujillo of Santa Fe, New Mexico. There are four nieces and nephews; Katherine of Grand Rapids, Anne Marie of Richmond, VA, and Mitchell of Grand Haven and Bennett of West Olive. Janice was preceded in death by her parents Robert in 2015 and Aileen in 2000, and her sister Denise in 2019.

Janice lived most of her life in Niles at Misty Acres and most recently at Woodland Terrace. She was active in her community, participating in many activities including church, Special Olympics, Niles Association for Exceptional Citizens, and Lovability. She worked at the Niles Walmart and Gateway. A celebratory memorial service will be scheduled later in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to any of the following groups: Special Olympics Michigan 160 68th Street SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49548 or Corewell Hospice and Palliative Care 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles.

Lou Ann DeVall

December 7, 1939 – February 6, 2026

Lou Ann (Hart) DeVall passed away on February 6, 2026, surrounded by family at home. Lou Ann was born on December 7, 1939, the youngest of five children born to Dr. Russell Hart and Frances Hart.

She is survived by her brother Wayne Hart and sister-in-law Jean Anne Hart, her sister-in-law Marie Miller, and her late husband's twin sister, Carol (Charlie) Shockley, who was deeply loved by Lou Ann as a sister. Lou Ann always looked forward to their yearly visits. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews whom she loved deeply and held fond memories of throughout her life.

Lou Ann was preceded in death by her husband, Charles DeVall; her parents, Dr. Russell and Frances Hart; her brothers, Bruce Hart and Dick Hart; her sister, Jean Spranger; and her sisters-in-law, Imogene Hart, Betty Kraus, and Pat Hart.

Lou Ann met her late husband, Charles, while still in high school. They were married on May 7, 1960, and together built a life centered on family. Together they had four daughters: Lori (Brian) Coyne, Susan (Mike) Johnson, Melanie (Scott) Sporner, and Nicole (Roger) Carter. She was also blessed with seven grandchildren: Brennan (Tiffani) Coyne, Katie Coyne, Korrin Johnson, Ethan Johnson, Luke Johnson, Becca Norman, and Charlize Kempton. She was so proud of each of them and never stopped mothering every member of her family.

Lou Ann was most proud of her daughters and would tell anyone who would listen just how blessed she was to have them care for her. She valued her family deeply, but also cherished her friendships, especially Bonnie Huffman, Linda Gourlay, and Fran Welling. She always lit up when talking to them or reminiscing about her time with them.

Lou Ann was an avid gardener, with the ability to walk through her yard and tell you both the common and scientific name of every flower she tenderly raised. She enjoyed playing Bridge and looked forward to her time of fellowship with her Bridge Ladies. She also was a proud member of Beta Sigma Phi for 60 years. Her sorority sisters loved and supported her through all of life's journey, and she loved them deeply in return.

The family would like to thank Corewell Hospice at Home for their tender care of Lou Ann over the past year, especially her team, Tami and Lisa. Lou Ann always enjoyed the weekly visits and laughter. Nicole would especially like to thank Tami for the love and care she showed Lou Ann. Her presence and compassion were felt during the most important time and will never be forgotten.

Visitation for Lou Ann will be held at Halbritter Wickens Funeral Home on Thursday, February 19, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held at Halbritter Wickens on Friday, February 20, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. with one hour prior for gathering. Her services will be followed by a graveside prayer at Mission Hills Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Lou Ann's memory to the American Diabetes Association or Corewell Hospice at Home. Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

Kim Dreibelbis

June 6, 1953 – February 8, 2026

Kim A. Dreibelbis, 72, of Niles, formerly of Plymouth, Indiana passed away on Sunday, February 8, 2026 at Corewell Lakeland Hospital in St. Joseph, Michigan after several months of declining health.

He was born June 6, 1953 in Plymouth, Indiana to George D. and Mary Donnabelle (Elliott) Dreibelbis. A graduate of Plymouth High School, class of 1971, Kim lived in the Plymouth area most of his life, moving to the Niles area five years ago. He had a career in trucking retail management with Whiteford Trucking and Hill Truck Sales in South Bend.

Kim is survived by his devoted companion Dixie Blue, who provided loving care during his recent health struggles. Also surviving is one brother, Dennis (Kathryn) Dreibelbis; a sister, Penny Lukenbill; two sons, Chad Dreibelbis and Eric (Catherine) Dreibelbis; two grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Kim was preceded in death by a son, Kim Jr. He will be missed by his faithful dog Bailey.

Per Kim's request his family will remember him privately and no formal services will be held. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Rodney Reynolds

October 12, 1958 – November 30, 2025

Rodney Lee Reynolds, 67 of Benton Harbor, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, November 30, 2025. He was born on October 12, 1958, in St. Joseph, MI, the son of the late Ernest and Dorothy (Hiler) Reynolds. Rod was a proud member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. He enjoyed watching sunsets and sunrises and frequently traveled to Lake Michigan where he could enjoy the water and serenity. Rod loved to gamble and spent much time at the casino.

Surviving are his daughter and only child, Angelina Winter; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; three sisters, Marjorie Reynolds, Brenda Reynolds, and Lisa (William) Butcher; brother, Mark Reynolds; aunt, Beverly (Craig) Hidey and several nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

Rod was preceded in death by his life partner of over 40 years, Robert Fredricks. They were married in June 2020, prior to Robert's passing on October 6, 2023. Also preceding him in death were his parents; sister, Peggy Reynolds; brother, David Reynolds; and nephew, Duane Matlack.

Honoring Rod's wishes, cremation has taken place and his family will be celebrating his life privately. Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel – Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. To share a memory or offer condolences, please visit Rod's personalized webpage at www.clarkch.com.

Timothy Klein

April 23, 1949 – February 5, 2026

Timothy Robert Klein, age 76, passed away on February 5, 2026. Tim's life was defined by connection – his greatest purpose was building meaningful relationships with people. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, teacher, athlete and most knew him as "Coach". Above all, he was a proud father and grandfather, finding his greatest joy in his family.

Tim is survived by his loving wife, Kateri; his three children, Derek (Irma Colunga), Kyle (Sarah), and Kateri (Andrew) Schutt; and his "Great Eight" beloved grandchildren – Caroline, Carson, Michael, Alex, Allison, Anna Jane, Claire, and Gretchen – who were a constant source of pride and happiness. He is also survived by his sisters, Christine (Jim) Vella and Phyllis (Jim) Okun, as well as numerous sisters – and brothers-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

Tim was an accomplished athlete from a young age, he was an All-State performer in football, basketball, and baseball at Niles High School. He went on to play football and baseball at Western Michigan University, where his passion for sports deepened and naturally led him into a lifelong career in education and coaching at Portage Central High School, Frankfort High School, and Roscommon High School. Over the course of his career, Tim coached baseball, basketball, football, skiing, tennis, and track & field.

Over the course of his coaching journey, Tim was inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame for both football and baseball. Highlights of Tim's coaching career included having his daughter in track and advancing to the football state championship game five times including winning twice while coaching his boys.

He developed many close relationships with colleagues around the State of Michigan. It led to him continuing coaching football in his retirement at Saginaw Heritage, Elk Rapids, and Onekama. Tim always loved spending time with former students and players, reliving memories and sharing stories from years past.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Bette Klein, his daughter-in-law Christina Klein, and nephews Christopher Houk and Scott Lagoni. His family will remember him for his huge smile and his gift of storytelling. His life was filled with love, laughter, football, golf, and memorable travels, especially cherished trips to Hawaii, Florida, Orange Beach, and Dallas. No one was ever a stranger to Tim.

In Memoriam, donations may be made to Lockhart Field by making checks payable to City of Frankfort, PO Box 351, Frankfort MI 49635, designate Lockhart Field – in memory of Tim Klein. There will be a celebration of life in Frankfort on June 27th. The place and time will be determined at a later date. Arrangements by Jowett Family Funeral Home of Benzonia. To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Timothy, please visit our Tree Store.

John Knoll

May 17, 1956 – January 9, 2026

John Edward Knoll, 69, passed away on Friday, January 9, 2026, in Las Vegas, Nevada. John was born on May 17, 1956 in Niles, Michigan to William Gareth Knoll and Betty Jane (Briney) Knoll. John was preceded in death by his father, William Knoll. Left to cherish the memory of John is his mother, Betty Jane Knoll; siblings, Gareth (Judy) Knoll and Karen Arnold, and nephews and niece.

John was a compassionate, generous, and intelligent man whose humor and kindness touched everyone who knew him. He had a natural gift for making people laugh and loved telling a good joke, often bringing lightness and joy to family gatherings and everyday moments. John found peace and creativity in oil painting, gardening, and music. He especially treasured spending time with his family and was always looking out for his grandmother, showing his deep sense of care and responsibility. In his younger years, John was actively involved in scouting, where he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and earned the Ad Altare Dei award – accomplishments that reflected his dedication, faith, and strong character. He also served as an altar server at church. During high school, John participated in sports, earning his Varsity letter in Cross Country and competing on the wrestling team. These experiences helped shape his perseverance and teamwork, qualities he carried throughout his life.

John will be remembered for his warmth, laughter, and unwavering love for those around him. His presence will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Memorial contributions in honor of John may be made out to St. Mary's Catholic School, 217 S Lincoln Ave, Niles, Michigan 49120. Visitation for John will be on Monday, February 16, 2026 from 10:00am to 11:00am with a Mass of Christian Burial to be held at 11:00am at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 219 S State St. Niles, Michigan 49120. Burial will immediately follow at Calvary Cemetery, 700 W Chicago Rd. Niles, Michigan 49120. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home. Photos, condolences, and memories may be shared with John's family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Christine Sheldon

Christine Sheldon, 70, of Niles, passed away on February 7, 2026. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

See more obituaries on page A4

Obituary policy

Leader Publications publishes death notices at a cost of $15. Extended obituaries are priced based on character count.

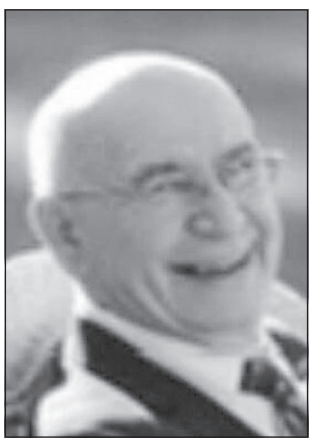
If there's an error because of a mistake made by the newspaper, the obituary will be reprinted at no charge.

For more information, or to submit an obituary, email obits@leaderpub.com.

OBITUARIES

William Poznanski

April 7, 1944 – February 5, 2026



William C. Poznanski, age 81, was born April 7, 1944, in South Bend, Indiana, and passed away peacefully on February 5, 2026, surrounded by family and love.

He is survived by his three sons, Eric (Krissi) Poznanski of Granger, Indiana, William T. (Roberta) Poznanski of Portage, Indiana, and Daniel (Christine) Poznanski of Opelika, Alabama; seven grandchildren, Sophia (Brandon) Oliver, Derek Needs-Poznanski, Joel Poznanski, Allison Poznanski, Tia Rain (Derek Mein) Poznanski, Mandy (Jared) Poznanski-Jolley, and Madison Poznanski; two great-granddaughters, Eleanor Ruth and Daphne Claire; and his brother, Terry (Debbie) Poznanski, along with many extended family members who will miss him deeply.

William was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Norma Jean Poznanski, whom he married on August 29, 1964; his parents, Clement and Martha (Sobczak) Poznanski; and his brother, Harvey Poznanski.

As a retired police officer, William lived a life defined by service, integrity, and quiet strength. In retirement, he found joy on the golf course and treasured time spent with his family. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, proud father and grandfather, loyal brother, and friend.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services in Niles, Michigan. His service will be followed by the inurnment of William's ashes alongside his beloved Norma's at Silverbrook Cemetery. Dates and times to be announced.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com

Peter Kaoma

Peter Sankata Kaoma passed away on February 6, 2026, in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home in Berrien Springs. Visitation on Saturday February 14 at Allred from 6:00-8:00. Services at Michiana African Seventh-day Adventist Church in Berrien Springs on Sunday February 15 at 9:00AM. Burial to follow at Rose Hill Cemetery in Berrien Springs. www.AllredFuneralHome.com.

Niles man gets probation for meth possession

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Correspondent

CASSOPOLIS — A Niles man with an extensive criminal record was given the chance to stay out of prison after pleading guilty to possession of methamphetamine.

Paul Cleo-Clinton Werrtz, 44, of Rose Drive in Niles, was sentenced to three years probation, credit for two days served and $1,548 in fines and costs.

WERNTZ

The incident occurred April 30, 2025 in Howard Township near Niles. Police were called on reports of a domestic violence incident and pursued Werntz who had fled the scene at a high rate of speed. Meth was found on him after his arrest.

Cass County Assistant Prosecutor Jason Ronning noted that Werntz's past record included 13 felony and at least seven misdemeanor convictions. He also pointed out that Werntz had served time in prison in the past and had failed a few years ago when he was sentenced to a Swift & Sure probation.

Defense attorney Nicholas Hogue said that while Werntz's sentencing guidelines called for a prison sentence of 19 to 38 months, there was more to consider including the fact he has a job, a stable residence and strong family support.

"The core question is whether he will use supervision as structure for his life or a game," Hogue said. "Let him prove to the court that he's able to be out in community … Tight supervision plus accountability is better than sending him to prison. It's worth putting his feet to the fire and have that Damocles sword hanging above his head."

Werntz acknowledged his past criminal record but said he's been working diligently to change his lifestyle. "There are a lot of people who depend on me, I have worked hard to change my life," he said.

Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman noted that he had sentenced Werntz four times previously and seen him not take advantage of other opportunities to get help and stay out of prison.

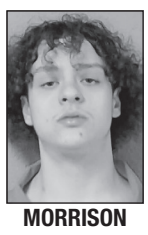
"I was prepared to give you 38 months today because that's what your history showed me," Judge Herman said. "That is consistent with what you would have gotten if Swift & Sure was available."

The judge warned Werntz that he must follow all the probation rules and not violate any criminal law if he wants to stay out of prison.

A Niles man who is studying to be a firefighter will have the chance to keep a felony charge off his record after pulling out a BB gun during an altercation at a social gathering.

The 20-year-old Niles man pleaded guilty to felonious assault and was sentenced under the Holmes Youthful Training Act to two years probation, credit for one day served and $1,978 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred July 20, 2025 at a location in Pokagon Township. The young man pulled out a BB gun during an altercation with another person at the gathering.



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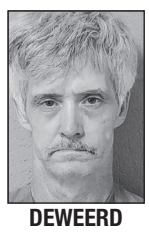

DEWEERD

MOORE

Ronning pointed out that the young man was lucky that no one was hurt in the incident.

"The victim didn't know it was a BB gun or that it was inoperable," he said. "He, the defendant or others could have easily been killed. I hope he recognizes that. At 20 years old, I hope he's old enough for that to sink in."

Defense attorney Greg Feldman said that the young man made a big mistake due to youth and had learned from the incident.

"The prosecutor is 100 percent correct," he said. "The victim could have pulled out a gun and it could have gotten out of hand very quickly with people injured or killed."

"You pull a gun out for only two reasons, in defense of your own life or in defense of someone else's life," Judge Herman said. "Be prepared to use it if pull it out. If you pull out a gun to threaten somebody and you don't know if the person is armed, you might end up six feet under or end up here in courtroom."

Another area youth was also sentenced to probation after being involved in the theft of guns from a local hardware store.

Jacob Michael Morrison, 19, of Mount Zion Street in Cassopolis, pleaded guilty to receiving, concealing stolen property over $1,000 and under $20,000 and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for three days served and $2,478 in fines and costs. Restitution will be determined at a later date but could be as much as $13,000 or more.

The incident occurred March 24, 2025 in Cassopolis when Morrison was present when another youth tried to sell stolen guns to an undercover police officer.

Judge Herman told Morrison that he should consider himself lucky as he could have faced a mandatory two years in prison for use of a firearm in the commission of a felony without a plea deal from the prosecutor's office.

In other sentencings:

Randy Ray Deweerd, 65, of Marcellus, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for 17 days served and $2,268 in fines and costs. The incident occurred June 5, 2025 in Marcellus.

Sydney Dianne Moore, 28, of North Street in Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to 18 months probation, credit for 171 days served and $2,148 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Aug. 1, 2025 in Dowagiac.

SMC 2nd in state in enrollment growth

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College finished second statewide for spring enrollment growth percentage among Michigan's 28 community colleges.

Spring marks SMC's eighth consecutive semester for enrollment growth, Interim President Brent Brewer told the Board of Trustees at its Feb. 11 meeting.

Enrollment climbed 8.8 percent and is up 10.9 percent in credit hours compared to Spring 2025, Brewer reported.

"I am happy, frankly thrilled, to report that our spring enrollment is +168 students or +8.8 percent in head count or +9.7 percent in contact hours – clear indicators that both access and engagement continue to strengthen," Brewer said. "From Spring 2022 to Spring 2026, we have grown 31.8 percent in head count and 33.4 percent in contact hours. This growth is a remarkable achievement in a highly competitive environment. Even more significant, this milestone of eight consecutive semesters of enrollment growth reflects sustained momentum and the collective impact of intentional recruitment, strong academic programming and a campus culture focused on student success."

Also in his president's report, Brewer noted SMC's athletic teams "are on fire."

"The men's basketball team has won three of its last five and the women have won four of their last five. They are peaking at the right time. Men's and women's track and field had another successful day at the Walt Cramer Invitational" in Illinois on Feb. 7, Brewer said.

"And men's wrestling competed at the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) Individual Championships last weekend and came home champions, marking a four-peat! Coach (Todd) Hesson was named MCCAA Coach of the Year and Santana Ramon was named MCCAA Wrestler of the Year."

In action related to the first phase of the Dale A. Lyons Building renovation, which will remodel and expand the choir room, trustees awarded a $1,211,943 contract to Pearson Construction Co.

Carmi Design Group architects in Niles evaluated bids from seven general contractors in shaping their recommendation. President Tony Leininger said the first phase project will be completed by August.

The board acknowledged 26 donations to the SMC Foundation totaling $48,375. Trustees also accepted two gifts to the college for $3,612.50.

Leader file

Southwestern Michigan College finished second statewide for spring enrollment growth percentage among Michigan's 28 community colleges.

Two injured in Pokagon Township collision

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

POKAGON TOWNSHIP — Two Dowagiac residents were hospitalized Wednesday following a rear-end collision in Pokagon Township, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

At approximately 11:32 a.m., deputies responded to a two-vehicle crash in the area of M-62 in front of Lyons Industries in Pokagon Township. The investigation showed that a vehicle driven by Kenneth Howard, 73, of Dowagiac, was Eastbound on M-62 when he failed to stop for slowing traffic, causing a rear-end collision with a vehicle driven by George Laing, 78, of Dowagiac. Laing's passenger, Jane Laing, 71, of Dowagiac, and Howard were transported by SMCAS Ambulance to Beacon Hospital for injuries sustained in the traffic crash.

Assisting agencies on scene were SMCAS Ambulance, Indian Lake Township Fire Department and Barry's Towing.

Trump-appointed judge rejects Justice Department's push for voter list

By CRAIG MAUGER
The Detroit News (TNS)

LANSING — A federal judge who was appointed by Republican President Donald Trump blocked on Tuesday a bid by Trump's Department of Justice to get a complete copy of Michigan's registered voter list.

Judge Hala Jarbou of Michigan's Western District said a series of federal laws failed to guarantee access to some sensitive information like voters' driver's license numbers, birthdates and Social Security numbers.

"The provision of personal information can establish someone's identity because that information is only possessed by that individual; if everyone has access to the information, it can no longer be used to verify that a person is who they claim to be," Jarbou wrote in a 23-page opinion.

On July 21, the Department Justice, within Trump's administration, sent a letter to Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat and Michigan's top election official, seeking an electronic copy of the state's computerized voter list.

BENSON

But Benson's office agreed to turn over only a public version of the list without some of the personal information attached to each voter.

The Trump administration filed a lawsuit in Michigan's Western District. It submitted similar litigation in other states, including California, Minnesota and New York.

U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi has said she's pursuing the voter lists to ensure that registration records are accurate, accessible and secure.

But Jarbou's ruling granted motions to dismiss the Department of Justice suit in the Michigan case.

For years, Trump has promoted unproven theories of widespread voter fraud across the United States, including claiming that there was "massive voter fraud " in Michigan's 2020 election, which the Republican lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

Benson, who's running for governor in 2026, said her office had given the Justice Department what it was legally entitled to: the public version of Michigan's voter file.

"States can and must hold the line," Benson said previously. "Only state and local election officials – not the president, the DOJ or any other federal agency – have the right to people's private voter information."

In its pursuit of the records, the Department of Justice had cited the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the National Voter Registration Act and the Civil Rights Act.

But Jarbou's ruling said none of those policies required the state to turn over the full voter list. HAVA, for example, focused on the administration of elections.

"The United States argues that HAVA authorizes it to obtain Michigan's voter registration list, though it acknowledges that HAVA lacks any provision related to disclosure," Jarbou wrote.

Interpreting the voter registration law to require public disclosure of all private information submitted for voter registration purposes would potentially cause the statute to impose an unconstitutional burden on the right to vote guaranteed by the First Amendment, Jarbou added.

The Department of Justice could appeal the decision.

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OPINION

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More than a feeling – thinking about love as a virtue can change how we respond to hate

By TUCKER J. GREGOR
University of Iowa (The Conversation)

THE CONVERSATION

Love and hate seem like obvious opposites. Love, whether romantic or otherwise, involves a sense of warmth and affection for others. Hate involves feelings of disdain. Love builds up, whereas hate destroys.

However, this description of love and hate treats them as merely emotions. As a religious ethicist, I am interested in the role love plays in our moral lives: how and why it can help us live well together. How does our understanding of the love-hate relationship change if we imagine love not as an emotion but as a virtue?

The 13th-century theologian Thomas Aquinas is a foundational thinker in the history of Christian ethics. For Aquinas, hate is not the antithesis of love, or even opposed to it. In his most important work, the "Summa Theologiae," he writes that hate responds to love. In other words, hate is a reaction to threats against what we love, or what we deeply value. We can better understand the experience of hate by getting clear on what it means to love.

Greek roots

Today, scientists know that feelings of love are related to biochemical processes that release chemicals in the brain, increasing pleasure and excitement. Beyond mere biology or even emotions, some philosophers and psychologists contend that love is also a practice.

Love can also refer to a virtue: a habit or settled disposition that increases the likelihood of people thinking, feeling and acting in ways that promote happiness and well-being. For example, the virtue of courage can help people endure and thrive in the midst of fear and uncertainty.

The concept of virtue is as old as philosophy itself. In the "Republic," written in the fourth century B.C.E., Plato distinguishes between virtue in general and the individual virtues that he believes characterize well-being, such as wisdom, courage, moderation and justice.

Love is not among them. Instead, he associates love – for which he used the Greek word "eros" – with feelings of physical desire.

It was Aristotle, one of Plato's students, who inched love closer toward virtue. In Aristotle's "Nicomachaen Ethics," he writes that virtue involves learning how to act and feel "at the right times, about the right things, toward the right people, for the right end, and in the right way." The individual virtues are cultivated over time through repetition.

For an act to be virtuous, one must consciously and deliberately act for the sake of some moral value. For example, Aristotle states that a generous person does good by giving wealth to the right people. Someone who spends with the aim of receiving some benefit in return merely appears generous. The person's character and the spirit in which they give matters.

The virtuous life isn't easy – but true friends can help. Aristotle believed that relationships of mutual respect and concern can empower us to develop virtues. Unlike friendships that are situational or superficial, these deeper connections are characterized by "philia," a kind of love. Friendships based in philia are virtuous: They involve mutual accountability and concern for each other, as if each person were an extension of oneself.

Aquinas' take

The Christian moral tradition builds and elaborates on these Greek foundations. For Christian theologians and moral philosophers, love can refer to an emotion, an affection, a duty and, yes, a virtue.

Aquinas considers virtue to be a stable disposition of the will – our capacity to choose – that contributes to a well-lived life. Individual virtues are good habits that influence how we relate to ourselves and other people in our daily lives, including love.

He also considers love to be a theological virtue – a gift of God's grace that people can choose to embrace or reject. "Caritas," or "charity" in Latin, is defined as friendship with God. Aquinas writes that it has a social benefit, too: Caritas inclines people toward treating their fellow humans with kindness, acting to advance others' well-being.

The other types of love, eros and philia, are subjective. They respond to our perception of value in other people and things. Caritas creates value in other people, whether or not we are able to see it.

Love and hate

How can approaching love as a virtue – rather than an emotion, affection or biochemical reaction – help us understand feelings of hatred?

From Aquinas' perspective, the feeling of hate is dependent on and conditioned by the people and things that we love, or that we consider good for ourselves and other people, whether that's a sports team, a movie or an ideology.

Yet if we take love to be a virtue – a daily habit that we choose to guide our practices – then we can exercise a degree of control over how we respond to feelings of hatred.

Consider how much hate there is in politics, such as hatred of a particular policy, politician or belief – or hatred of injustice itself. But at root, perhaps that hate is a response to love; for example, love for one's neighbors, one's country or one's ideals. Recognizing that possibility can help us respond with a loving choice, like peaceful protest, as a way to advocate for rights. By cultivating the virtue of love, people are more likely to engage in practices of care and empathy necessary for communities to thrive.

Distinguishing between feelings of love, practices of love and the virtue of love can empower us to respond to feelings of hatred. Becoming better lovers requires engaging with destructive emotions, rather than running from them.

Tucker J. Gregor is a doctoral candidate in religious studies at the University of Iowa. The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. This article is republished under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article at https://theconversation.com.

STATE NEWS

Report: Bridge threat came after Lutnick met rival crossing owner

By BLOOMBERG NEWS (TNS)

President Donald Trump's threat to block a new bridge from Detroit to Canada followed a meeting between his Commerce Secretary and a billionaire who owns an existing border-crossing bridge just miles from the new span, according to two people familiar with the matter.

On Monday evening the president said on Truth Social he'd prevent the Gordie Howe International Bridge from opening until Canada "fully compensated" the US, and said the U.S. should own 50 percent of the asset.

The social media post followed a Monday meeting between Howard Lutnick and Matthew Moroun, whose family owns and operates the Ambassador Bridge, currently the busiest crossing over the border between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, the people said. Following the meeting, Lutnick called Trump.

The White House declined to comment. Representatives for Detroit International Bridge Co., the company which operates the Ambassador Bridge, and other companies where Moroun holds roles did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The New York Times first reported the talks.

Construction of the $4.7 billion Gordie Howe bridge was paid for entirely by Canada. It's largely complete and was due to open soon. In a deal agreed over a decade ago, Canada is set to receive toll revenues until it has recouped the construction cost, after which time that money will be split equally between Canada and Michigan. Both governments will co-own the asset. Both governments also appoint an equal number of members to an oversight body.

But the Morouns have long lobbied against Canada building a new bridge, which would rival their privately-held span.

In 2012, Matthew's father Matty Moroun supported an unsuccessful statewide ballot in Michigan in an attempt to restrict the state's ability to own or develop new international bridges. Matthew Moroun then lobbied Trump during his first term to rescind a waiver granted by President Barack Obama exempting the crossing from having to use only U.S. steel. Matty Moroun died in 2020. Moroun companies have also filed lawsuits which would have obstructed the construction of the Gordie Howe bridge.

Trump's involvement injects fresh uncertainty into the project.

The president wants to strike a deal with the Canadians over the Gordie Howe bridge, one of the people said. He spoke to Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney on Tuesday morning, who said Trump asked to involve his ambassador to Canada, Pete Hoekstra, who is from Michigan.

Trump's broadside against Canada, the largest buyer of U.S. exports, is the latest in a crescendo of tensions between the two countries as they prepare to review the economically critical U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement trade deal, which Trump negotiated in his first term.

Trump's rhetoric on Canada, such as calling for it to become a U.S. state, had softened after Prime Minister Mark Carney replaced Justin Trudeau in an election last April. But it's ramped up again since October, when Ontario Premier Doug Ford ran ads in the U.S. quoting former President Ronald Reagan against tariffs. Trump terminated trade talks as a result, leaving in place large tariffs on key Canadian exports to the U.S. like aluminum, steel and autos, as well as a 35 percent tariff on the small amount of trade not covered by USMCA.

The Washington-Ottawa relationship deteriorated further in the last month, after Carney struck a tariff detente with Chinese President Xi Jinping and gave a speech in Davos, Switzerland which many saw as a critique and rallying cry against U.S. foreign and trade policy. Since October, Trump has threatened to increase his 35 percent tariff on Canada to 45 percent, then floated a 100 percent tariff, as well as a 50 percent tariff on Canadian-made planes. None of those taxes have yet been imposed.

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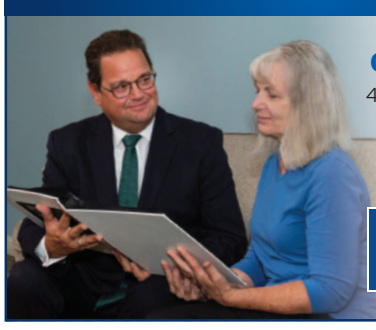
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Eileen Crouse / For Leader Publications

ICE TIME

From page A1

Children were able to follow the Snowflake Search Scavenger Hunt by seeking out hidden snowflakes at participating retailers. The Dowagiac District Library hosted an interactive viewing of the movie Frozen where children joined in the fun with props and movement as the movie played.

The Dowagiac Union High School spring musical cast of Frozen, Jr. provided children a photo opportunity with princesses and other beloved characters at the Jim Snow Professional Building. Bow Wow Bakery and Bath teamed with Hidden Acres Safe Haven to facilitate cat adoptions.

Several businesses competed in the annual Chili Crawl where guests tasted restaurant samples for free and voted for their favorite offering. Event-goers taking in the sculptures were able to shop to their heart's content at many downtown businesses that were open during the festival.

Corporate underwriters of the Ice Time Festival included Acrisure, Dowagiac Credit Union, Dowsett Chiropractic Health Center, Lyons Industries, Starks Family Funeral Homes/Clark Chapel, Who Knew Consignment and Xfinity.

DOWAGIAC

From page A1

coverage, police and fire coordination, noise limits, street closures, alcohol permitting, sanitation standards, post-event cleanup and a coordination meeting with City staff prior to the event to finalize logistics.

In other business, a Dowagiac property that has been a cause for concern by the community will soon be taken care of. The council unanimously moved to declare the property at 205 Beckwith St. a public nuisance. The vacant structure features damaged roof, windows, gutters and exterior walls. The owners are directed to begin action to repair or demolish the property within 30 days of Monday's council meeting and the repair or removal must be completed no later than six months from the date of the council meeting.

If the property has not been addressed in the stated time frame, the city will take steps to demolish the property. Any costs incurred by the city are to be recovered through use of Special Assessment on the above listed property.

In further business, council passed a resolution establishing authorized signatories for MERS Contracts and Service Credit Purchase Approvals. The city participates in the Municipal Employees' Retirement System. From time to time, there are changes that are made to the city's retirement offerings that require new documentation to be signed by authorized personnel. Currently, the only authorized signer is the City Manager. The approved resolution adds the Assistant City Manager as an authorized signer.

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Conference champs

Brandywine girls win 3rd straight Lakeland crown

PMG STAFF

BERRIEN SPRINGS — Another championship for the Brandywine girls basketball team.

The No. 1-ranked Bobcats roared past Berrien Springs 55-31 Friday night to claim a third straight conference title and 12th in Josh Hood's 17 years as coach. The boys team also defeated Berrien Springs 56-52 to avenge a 73-70 triple overtime loss to Berrien on January 9.

The Brandywine girls are 5-0 in the Lakeland Conference and have won 23 straight conference games. The Bobcats are 15-0 overall with an average win margin of 35 points per game. Hood's team should be tested Saturday when it hosts 11-1 Wolverine Conference-leading Otsego (11-1) at 3 p.m.

Brandywine was in charge Friday night the entire way, holding quarter leads of 16-5, 32-14 and 51-18. Zaya Price scored nine of her team-high 12 points in the first half. Lily Gill added 11 points and Hailey Smith and Karleigh Byrd each had 10.

On the boys' side, the Bobcats improve to 4-1 and tie the Shamrocks atop the league race.

Ryder Richard scored 16 of his game-high 20 points in the first half while helping Brandywine take a 32-21 lead at one point. Berrien Springs came back to take a 37-35 edge midway through the third quarter. After three ties, Will Hubbard hit a pair of free throws with 3.4 seconds left in the third to put the Bobcats on top 43-41. And Brandywine led the rest of the way.

Nick Shelton, for Leader Publications

The Brandywine girls basketball team won its third straight Lakeland Conference title Friday night at Berrien Springs.

Nylen Goins added 18 points and Hubbard had 12 for Nathan Knapp's team, which is 14-4 overall and has won seven in a row.

Dowagiac's Jocelyn Kiner has signed her NJCAA Letter of Intent to run cross country for Coach Zac Sartori and the Roadrunners starting in Fall 2026.

Dowagiac's Kiner signs to run as a Roadrunner

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — A Dowagiac athlete is taking her talents to the next level.

Jocelyn Kiner has signed her NJCAA Letter of Intent to run cross country for Coach Zac Sartori and the Roadrunners starting in Fall 2026. Kiner will also compete in track and field for SMC.

"I've been excited about getting Jocelyn out for a couple of years now," Sartori said. "She is a hard worker and dedicated to improving herself. She's both kind and motivated and I'm really looking forward to having her on the team next fall."

Kiner is the first member of the 2026 SMC Women's Cross Country recruiting class.

"Jocelyn started running for Dowagiac her freshman year, which was also my first year of coaching," said Dowagiac coach Ryan Maggert. "Since day one, Jocelyn showed up to every practice with a huge smile on her face and a positive attitude. No matter how hard practice was, how hot or cold it was, or how far we ran, she just kept smiling and gave it her all every day. Jocelyn has been a joy to coach for the past four years.

"I look forward to watching her continued growth as an athlete, a student and an individual."

In September 2025, the Roadrunners shocked the field and won the MCCAA Western Conference championship on their home course in Dowagiac. The team then finished the season ranked 18th in the country after competing in the NJCAA National Championships in unseasonably cold and snowy conditions at the Lakeside Golf Course in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Dowagiac wins 9th consecutive team district title

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — It has been both a busy and successful week for Dowagiac wrestling.

The Chieftains earned their third straight Lakeland Conference title Saturday, Feb. 7 and followed that up with a Division 3 District title Wednesday at home. The Chieftains beat Hartford 56-17 and Watervliet 71-8 to claim the program's ninth straight district crown.

"Things went well, we're finally starting to click on all cylinders," said Dowagiac coach Colin Burandt. "It's exciting winning another district title. We're looking to take the next step at regionals and get over the hump."

While this year's team may be young with just four upperclassmen, the Chieftains are also both experienced and talented. Rooney Olmedo, Aiden Vorhees, Jacob Villegas, Cameron White, Jeremiah Hargreaves, Brody Brewer, Skylar Vincek and Khalif Reyna earned conference titles in their respective weight classes. The girls team also turned in a strong performance placing fifth out of 40 teams in the Southwest Conference. Returning state finalist Cinthia Villegas earned a conference title in her class while Bailey Ottinger placed third in her class.

"Our freshman class has some really talented kids. The sophomore class is built the same way and getting another year of experience has helped them take jumps," Burandt said. "When you mix it with our junior-senior leadership, it clicks well. We talk about the 'Dowagic standard' – to leave it all out there for six minutes on the mat. If you do that, the results will take care of themselves."

Photo provided

The Dowagiac wrestling team captured its ninth straight team district title Wednesday at home.

After dealing with injuries at key spots during the regular season, the Chieftains are now healthy and peaking at just the right time.

"We haven't had a full healthy lineup all year until the past couple weeks," Burandt said. "Getting the team to gel has been goal No. 1."

Dowagiac will host fellow Lakeland Conference member Buchanan as well as Allegan and Constantine at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Division 3 Regional Final. Burandt and the Chieftains are hoping to take the next step and return to the team state tournament for the first time in five years.

"It would mean a lot just to do it this young," Burandt said. We're one year ahead of schedule. Our program has grown year over year. We want to rejuvenate the excitement we've had in year's past. It's been five years since we went to team state – we went three years in a row. We want to make it back."

Edwardsburg keeps winning streak going, beats Sturgis

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Correspondent

EDWARDSBURG — One day after pulling out a physical three-point win over St. Joseph, the Edwardsburg boys' basketball team had to adapt to a totally different style of play Tuesday at home against Wolverine Conference foe Sturgis.

Jared Frick's Eddies handled that task very well emerging with a 44-32 win over the Trojans.

With its fourth straight victory, Edwardsburg improves to 13-6 overall and is now tied for third with Plainwell in the league standings at 8-4. Sturgis falls to 8-10 and 3-9 in the conference.

Edwardsburg and its young roster, which includes five sophomores and three juniors, looked a bit weary at times during the contest. Very understandable considering the Eddies were playing their fifth game in the last 10 days.

"Our kids are pretty tired after three games last week and two already this week with a big game with Niles left this Friday. We got a little complacent in the second half. I give Sturgis a lot of credit. Keith always has those kids ready to play and they play good zone defense and make you think alot," Frick said.

The Eddies built a comfortable 25-10 lead going into halftime, but Keith Kurowski's Trojans made things interesting in the second half with its controlled tempo and stingy defense.

Back-to-back three pointers by Sturgis' Lukis Bir to start the third quarter lessened the Trojans' deficit to nine, 25-16. The Eddies quickly hiked the lead back to double digits after 6-foot-1 junior guard Blaise Crist scored inside. Reed Gates' putback moments later gave the Eddies a 29-20 advantage with a little over three minutes left in the period.

Scott Hassinger / For Leader Publications

Edwardsburg's Maverick Gates (32) gets inside position and scores against Sturgis defenders.

Sturgis quickly cut its deficit to six, 29-23, after 6-4 senior center Gavin Lewis scored down low and was fouled. Lewis made the charity shot.

Edwardsburg got the final four points of the period with Crist converting underneath and Reed Gates hitting two free throws to send the Eddies into the final period with a 33-23 lead.

Lewis drained an 8-foot jumper to bring Sturgis within nine, 36-27 with 4:17 left in the game. But a pair of baskets and a free throw from Kevin Wright and deuce from Isaac Dittenber helped the Eddies increase their lead to 43-29 with a minute left in the contest. Crist stepped up and made a free throw down the stretch to put the finishing touches on the win.

Edwardsburg came out strong to start the game jumping out to a 17-2 advantage after one stanza and looking like they would win easily.

With its zone defense, Sturgis was able to hold Edwardsburg to just eight points during the second quarter. The Trojans, however, only managed to secure eight points themselves and still trailed its hosts by double digits entering intermission.

See **EDDIES**, page B2

HS BASKETBALL

Saturday
Girls

OTSEGO 55, BRANDYWINE 44

Otsego (55)
Brooke Smallmon 12, Peyton Johnson 3, Mya Engbers 16, Malania Miller 2, Audrey Lingbeek 7, Madden Fitzpatrick 13, Kendall Hough 2. Totals 22 6-10 55.
Brandywine (44)
Macy Pellow 3, Karleigh Byrd 7, Zaya Price 10, Mackenna Price 12, Lily Gill 12, Brook Brumitt 0, Hailey Smith 0. Totals 15 11-14 44.

Otsego	**13**	**26**	**41**	**55**
Brandywine	**14**	**19**	**26**	**44**

3-point baskets: Otsego 5 (Engbers 3, Lingbeek 1, Fitzpatrick 1), Brandywine 3 (Pellow 1, Byrd 1, Gill 1). Total fouls: Otsego 14, Brandywine 14. Records: Otsego 12-1, Brandywine 15-1

Monday
Boys

NILES 70, VICKSBURG 56

Vicksburg (56)
Graham Kubiak 5, Mitchell Beyer 6, Rocco Marchese 4, Anthony Marchese 9, Caden Chisholm 12, Nathan Vallier 18, Greyson Bulkema 2. Totals 21 7-7 56.
Niles (70)
Brayden Favors 27, Brenden Olsen 16, Jarico Sisk 3, Derrick Hill Jr. 12, Bryce Zache 2, Ceon Kirtdoll 3, Acie Kirtdoll 0, Brogan Lake 3 Kam Adams 2, Donny Williams 2. Totals 25 12-16 70.

Vicksburg	**18**	**29**	**39**	**56**
Niles	**14**	**37**	**50**	**70**

3-point baskets – Vicksburg 7 (Vallier 4, Chisholm 2, Kubiak 1), Niles 8 (Favors 3, Hill Jr. 2, Olsen 1, C. Kikrtdoll 1, Lake 1). Total fouls (fouled out) – Vicksburg 14 (Chisholm), Niles 13. Records – Vicksburg 7-10 (4-6 Wolverine Conference), Niles 13-5 (9-2 Wolverine Conference).

EDWARDSBURG 49, ST. JOSEPH 46

Edwardsburg (49)
Maverick Gates 6, Liam Sieggreen 6, Blaise Crist 19, Law Gates 4, Michael Wright 4, Isaac Dittenber 2, Reed Gates 8. Totals 13 17-26 49.
St. Joseph (46)
Evan Searles 2, Ben Varrie 29, Gordon Hosbein 3, Eli Caid 8, Donevin Ruchti 4. Totals 20 3-5 46.

Edwardsburg	**9**	**20**	**34**	**49**
St. Joseph	**16**	**24**	**32**	**46**

3-point baskets – Edwardsburg 6 (Sieggreen 2, M. Gates 2, L. Gates 1, Wright 1), St. Joseph 3 (Varrie 2, Hosbein 1). Total fouls – Edwardsburg 12, St. Joseph 19. Records – Edwardsburg 12-6, St. Joseph 5-10
Cassopolis 66, White Pigeon 40

Girls

NILES 58, VICKSBURG 45

Niles (58)
Jessie Thornton 24, Gianna Ball 2, Maddie Zache 3, Elynne Hoyt 10, Tanaya Brown 13, Ali Gerrits 4, Auslyn Rohacs 2. Totals 21 12-20 58.
Vicksburg (45)
Lainey Wilson 9, Ellie Lincoln 6, Renna Caswell 5, Madison Cooley 3, Camryn Rosier 5, Evie Lincoln 4, Harper Roy 5, Audri Pyne 4, Emma Boudrie 1, Victoria Hillard 3. Totals 13 15-22 45.

Niles	**11**	**29**	**48**	**58**
Vicksburg	**9**	**17**	**34**	**45**

3-point baskets – Niles 4 (Thornton 3, Zache 1), Vicksburg 4 (Wilson 1, Cooley 1, Roy 1, Rosier 1). Total fouls – Niles 18, Vicksburg 15. Records – Niles 7-8 (4-5 Wolverine Conference), Vicksburg 7-8 (2-7 Wolverine Conference).

SCHOOLCRAFT 59, CASSOPOLIS 24

Cassopolis (24)
Madalynn Yakel 4, JaMya Hart 2, Cheyenne Redmond 0, Madison Nelson 12, Ryley Bowsher 4, Emily Hartline 2. Totals 10 2-5 24.
Schoolcraft (59)
Addison Sziede 9, Lexi Blodgett 9, Alexis Walther 24, Payton Gottschalk 2, Carley Cook 7, Savannah Mozo9la 2, Val DeVries 6. Totals 24 6-10 59.

Cassopolis	**16**	**18**	**22**	**24**
Schoolcraft	**13**	**27**	**46**	**59**

3-point baskets – Cassopolis 2 (Nelson 2), Schoolcraft 5 (Walther 4, Sziede 1). Total fouls – Cassopolis 12, Schoolcraft 4. Records – Cassopolis 9-6, Schoolcraft 11-3
Dowagiac 42, Michigan Lutheran 24

Tuesday
Boys

BRANDYWINE 73, MICHIGAN LUTHERAN 62

Brandywine (73)
Jase Deming 0, Nylen Goins 22, Emerson Gogley 6, Elighia Burt 19, Will Hubbard 5, Parker Anglin 1, Ryder Richard 20. Totals 25 18-27 73.
Michigan Lutheran (62)
Daniel Pearson 7, Samuel Edikubi 1, Ethan Eggert 2, Anthony Galey 9, Jordan Duensing Bean 17, Khannoi Hamilton 5, Thorion Swisher 4, Noah Herbst 2, Noah Aukerman 6, Conner Olson 9. Totals 26 4-9 62.

Brandywine	**24**	**41**	**60**	**73**
Lutheran	**8**	**21**	**43**	**62**

3-point baskets: Brandywine 5 (Richard 3, Gogley 1, Goins 1), Michigan Lutheran 6 (Duensing Bean 2, Pearson 1, Galey 1, Hamilton 1, Olson 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Brandywine 16 (Richard), Michigan Lutheran 24 (Swisher, Galey). Records: Brandywine 15-4, Michigan Lutheran 12-4

PAW PAW 67, NILES 46

Niles (46)
Brayden Favors 19, Acie Kirtdoll 3, Brenden Olsen 4, Derrick Hill Jr. 5, Bryce Zache 2, Ian Riggenbach 2, Ceon Kirtdoll 5, Donny Williams 6. Totals 14 14-25 46.
Paw Paw (67)
Eli Sonnenberg 8, Kaelin Tate 8, Truman Brennan 22, Caden Bowen 13, Carter Minor 4, Chase Boff 10, Frankie Wunderlich 2. Totals 27 4-10 67.

Niles	**7**	**18**	**35**	**46**
Paw Paw	**12**	**35**	**56**	**67**

3-point baskets – Niles 4 (Favors 2, C. Kirtdoll 1, Williams 1), Paw Paw 9 (Brennan 3, Sonnenberg 2, Boff 2, Tate 1, Bowen 1). Total fouls (fouled out) – Niles 17, Paw Paw 23 (Sonnenberg, Tate). Records – Niles 13-6 (9-3 Wolverine Conference), Paw Paw 13-6 (10-2 Wolverine Conference).
Cassopolis 59, Bangor 35

Girls

NILES 80, PAW PAW 57

Paw Paw (57)
Ruby Schincariol 6, Zoey Bridges 13, A. Allen 3, Stella Shaefer 18, Jordan Zent 2, E. Herbert 6, Mecenzie Allen 5, Megan Miller 2, Kailey Nichols 2. Totals 21 10-15 57.
Niles (80)
Jessie Thornton 21, Tanaya Brown 27, Gianna Ball 3, Maddie Zache 8, Jaliyah Woods 1, Elynne Hoyt 12, Ali Gerrits 6, Austyn Rohacs 2. Totals 28 18-28 80.

Paw Paw	**11**	**19**	**41**	**57**
Niles	**24**	**41**	**58**	**80**

3-point baskets – Niles 6 (Zache 2, Thornton 1, Brown 1, Hoyt 1, Ball 1), Paw Paw 5 (Shaefer 3, Bridges 2). Total fouls – Paw Paw 21, Niles 14. Records – Paw Paw 4-12 (2-9 Wolverine Conference), Niles 8-8 (5-5 Wolverine Conference).
Buchanan 44, Bronson 31
Cassopolis 60, Bangor 22

Wednesday
Boys

BANGOR 49, DOWAGIAC 38

Girls
Brandywine 59, Michigan Lutheran 26
Brandywine (59)
Hailey Smith 1, Macy Pellow 6, Karleigh Byrd 13, Zaya Price 12, Mackenna Price 11, Lily Gill 12, Brie Reese 4. Totals 21 12-19 59
Michigan Lutheran (26)
Amelia Elder 4, Allie Lesher 9, Evangeline Liss 2, Mya Lemke 3, Isla Hendrickson 3, Claire Fletcher 3, Rosalie Pirri 2. Totals 10 2-6 26.

Brandywine	**25**	**44**	**56**	**59**
Lutheran	**1**	**12**	**20**	**26**

3-point baskets – Brandywine 5 (Pellow 2, Byrd 1, M. Price 1, Reese 1), Michigan Lutheran 4 (Lesher 2, Lemke 1, Fletcher 1). Total fouls – Brandywine 6, Michigan Lutheran 14. Records – Brandywine 16-1, Michigan Lutheran 5-9

Cubs enter season with high hopes

By DAVID BRANDT
AP Baseball Writer

Nam Y. Huh / AP

New Chicago Cubs player Alex Bregman, right, listens to his agent Scott Boras at a news conference in Chicago, on Jan. 15.

MESA, Ariz. — The Chicago Cubs are coming off a 92-win season, return much of a productive and athletic lineup, have a deep group of talented pitchers and signed All-Star third baseman Alex Bregman during the offseason.

It's safe to say elite expectations will be back at Wrigley Field this summer.

Cubs manager Craig Counsell didn't shy away from that reality Wednesday before the team's first official spring training workout for pitchers and catchers. Addressing reporters for the first time in Arizona, he said "everybody works really hard to create a team like this."

"You work really hard to build a roster that has expectations," Counsell said. "You work really hard to get on a team that has expectations. That's what we want. We're truly excited."

It's been nearly 10 years since the Cubs beat the Cleveland Indians for the World Series title in 2016. The franchise has stayed competitive since – making the playoffs four times, including last season – but hasn't been able to recreate the magic or talent that famously snapped 108 years of futility.

This roster might represent its best chance.

The lineup is relatively young but has experience, headlined by Pete Crow-Armstrong, Dansby Swanson, Ian Happ, Nico Hoerner, Michael Busch and Seiya Suzuki. Adding Bregman – a two-time World Series champion – on a $175 million, five-year deal should make them even more formidable.

The 31-year-old Bregman hit .273 with 18 homers and 61 RBIs in 114 games last season.

"We've added a really good baseball player who is just passionate about the game," Counsell said. "It's fun to be around people like that. We have a lot of people like that. So I think, from that perspective, he fits in."

The Cubs also still have Matt Shaw, who had a good rookie season at third base and now is expected to move into a super-utility role because of Bregman's arrival. Shaw played good defense at third and hit .226 with 13 homers and 44 RBIs, overcoming a slow start at the plate and showing considerable improvement during the season's second half.

The 24-year-old has spent most of his baseball career at third or second, but he has also dabbled in the outfield. Counsell said Shaw will get more work in the outfield this spring as they try and make him as versatile as possible.

"Matt's got a fun challenge ahead of him," Counsell said. "That's how I see it and I think that's how he sees it."

Chicago's starting rotation could also be a strength with newcomer Edward Cabrera – who was acquired in a trade with the Marlins – joining Matthew Boyd, Shota Imanaga, Jameson Taillon and Cade Horton. Cabrera went 8-7 with a 3.53 ERA in a career-high 26 starts and 137 2/3 innings last year.

The 24-year-old Horton is entering his second season after a fantastic rookie year. The right-hander was 11-4 with a 2.67 ERA, though he missed the postseason with a rib injury.

"There's still a lot to prove," Horton said. "Now guys have a scouting report on me, they know my stuff. It's all about going out there and executing pitches, giving our team a chance to win."

The Cubs' bullpen – as it is for almost every team in the big leagues – is a work in progress. Counsell did provide a mild surprise on Wednesday by confirming that Daniel Palencia would be team's closer if the season started today.

Palencia was very good last season with a 2.91 ERA and 22 saves, and Counsell envisions a similar role in 2026, though he also said the team must remain flexible.

"There's always going to be surprises in that area of your team," Counsell said. "That's how it's going to work."

But overall, the Cubs have more certainty about their potential 26-man roster than most teams. Cubs' President of Baseball Operations Jed Hoyer said this was "the best kind of spring training" because there was so much optimism and hunger to improve on last season's success.

"I know the expectations are high – which is great," Hoyer said. "The excitement in camp is palpable. The players are talking about it, the coaches are talking about it. They're excited about our group."

Verlander hopes to correct 'regret' from first time with Tigers

By CHRIS MCCOSKY
The Detroit News (TNS)

LAKELAND, Fla. — It's going to be hard for Justin Verlander to escape the nostalgia of this whole situation.

"Yeah, (Tarik) Skubal was showing me around the locker room and all of a sudden he goes, 'There you are on the wall.'" Verlander said Thursday morning. "That's cool, I guess. There's just a lot of emotions running through. I haven't processed it all yet."

Tigers president Scott Harris is not a sentimental man when it comes to building Detroit's roster. And he had no previous history with Verlander. So the decision to sign the soon-to-be, 43-year-old future Hall-of-Famer had less to do with the past and everything to do with the now.

"I'd never met him before, but I know what he means to this city and this organization," Harris said. "And when we had an opportunity for him, we just want to engage him and help him understand what we're trying to achieve here and how he fits.

"We know how he fits in the city and organization, we wanted him to know how he fits on this team and how he can help us win."

It's a fairytale story, really, one Tigers Nation has dreamt about since Verlander was traded to Houston in 2017. And, as he explained Thursday, a part of Verlander's heart remained in Detroit.

"It was definitely in the back of my mind," Verlander said of returning. "I grew up in front of the fans in Detroit. I was 21 years old when I got to Lakeland for the first time. I have so much history here. And last year, when we got knocked out of the playoff run toward the end of the season, I was thinking about where I wanted to be.

"Detroit just kept coming to my mind."

The last thing he wanted to be was a right-handed mercenary, floating from team to team until he hung up his spikes. He wanted to be on a championship-caliber team. He wanted to be on a team he had a connection to.

The Tigers checked both boxes. The problem was, when he called owner Chris Ilitch and Harris and manager AJ Hinch early in the offseason, the Tigers didn't have a spot for him. Since then, though, they learned that Reese Olson was going to miss the season with shoulder surgery.

"That's not the way you want it to go," Verlander said. "There is a lot of young talent here."

Harris talked about Verlander having some unfinished business in Detroit, referencing the World Series losses in 2006 and 2012.

"Yeah, that's what Scott said," Verlander said with a grin. "I wouldn't say unfinished. You leave everything on the field. It's not like it's unfinished business. It didn't leave a bad taste in my mouth. I know we did everything possible to try to win one. Playoffs can end up being a little bit of a crap shoot.

"The ball needs to roll your way one time and it can change the course of history."

That said, to come back and help the Tigers win a ring, well, that's the ultimate fairytale ending.

"The one thing I'd want to accomplish in Detroit that I had a couple of shots at that I really regret not achieving is a World Series title," Verlander said. "Mr. I (former owner Mike Ilitch) was such an incredible owner and someone I really admired. In talking to Chris and seeing how the torch got passed down and how he's going for it like his dad did – I'm really happy to be back here with a World Series-caliber team."

The support he got from the Detroit fans, which continued even after he left, was not lost on Verlander.

"I've definitely felt the Detroit presence," he said. "I got so many text messages from old friends, from Detroit friends, just as many as when I threw a no-hitter or won the Cy Young or the World Series. It was that much attention. Pretty cool."

EDDIES

From page B1

Scott Hassinger / For Leader Publications

Blaise Crist (12) from Edwardsburg drives inside to score on Sturgis' Owen Frost (4) in the first half.

"I thought our kids were very physical and were guarding the basketball very well in the first half. Lukis Bir is very good player for them and we lost him a couple times. But I thought for the most part we were in good position and did things right defensively most of the night. It's a credit to our kids for picking up Sturgis changes real quickly throughout the game. We only had seven turnovers and gave up just three offensive rebounds," Frick said.

Crist paced Edwardsburg in scoring with 13 points. Reed Gates, a 6-3 sophomore forward, contributed 10 for the Eddies followed by Maverick Gates with six, including two triples in the first half, and Wright finished with five.

"Blaise has been great. He's one of our team captains and works hard everyday and everything that's happening for him right now is by design. He's been a big offensive and vocal leader for us," Frick said.

Edwardsburg converted 15 field goals, including three triples, and finished the game 5-of-9 at the foul stripe. In comparison, Sturgis drained 13 field goals and went 3-of-6 from the free-throw stripe.

Reed Gates added five rebounds for the Eddies, while Law Gates and Wright pulled down three each. Sophomore guard Liam Sieggreen also drained a big three for the Eddies in the opening half.

"We have a lot of guys on this team who can shoot the ball very well. There are three guys shooting over 40 percent from three-point territory. But in a game like tonight where the possessions are limited you have to get really good shots. Crist and Wright took control of our offense and made sure we got good looks and took nice shots at the end," Frick said.

Sturgis was led in scoring by Lewis with 15, while Bir and Fernando Villason added six each for the Trojans.

"We have great leadership on this basketball team. Michael Wright, Blaise Crist and Maverick Gates are our team captains and they are strong leaders and are a big reason when we win. This is a young squad and some of those kids are playing good minutes for us. Without those three older guys though our record could be flippped just as easily," Frick said.

Edwardsburg rounds out the regular season with three straight home games, including its next game on Friday at 7:15 p.m. against Niles.

Arlington Heights rallies to bring Bears to the suburbs – and fight off Indiana

By ROBERT McCOPPIN
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

CHICAGO — As competition for a new Chicago Bears stadium intensifies, suburban fans and leaders plan to rally Wednesday night to bring the team to Arlington Heights, Ill. – with a new urgency to fight off a bid from Indiana.

The Indiana Senate recently passed a bill to create a northwest Indiana sports stadium authority to finance, build and lease an arena.

But Rolling Meadows Mayor Lara Sanoica, who supports bringing the Bears to neighboring Arlington Heights, issued a statement that the proposed Indiana law would be a bad deal for workers.

"Indiana's sales pitch is that you can build a world-class stadium by shortchanging the workers who build it," Sanoica said. "Illinois doesn't work that way. We know our families deserve better than a race to the bottom."

The Indiana bill prohibits project labor agreements on the stadium project. Such agreements, Sanoica said, ensure that construction workers receive union-scale wages, retirement benefits and apprenticeships. The Indiana Senate also eliminated participation goals for minority-owned and women-owned businesses.

In contrast, the Illinois Mega Projects Bill that the Bears want requires a project labor agreement and a goal of awarding 20 percent of contracts to minority-owned businesses.

The Mega Projects bill would allow the Bears, or any other sponsor of a major development, to negotiate long-term property taxes with local taxing bodies.

It wouldn't cost the state a dime. The Bears propose paying for their own $2 billion enclosed stadium. But team officials want the state to help pay for an estimated $855 million in infrastructure costs for things like new roads, rail access and water mains.

Arlington Heights Mayor Jim Tinaglia said he thinks Illinois lawmakers are making progress to counter Indiana's offer.

"This is no longer Arlington Heights versus Chicago," he said. "This is about doing what we need to keep the Bears here in Illinois."

Local school leaders, who would be most affected by any property tax deal, support the Illinois legislation. They would be able to broker their own deal, as they did in a short-term deal that sets the Bears tax at $3.6 million annually – more than the former Arlington International Racecourse site ever paid.

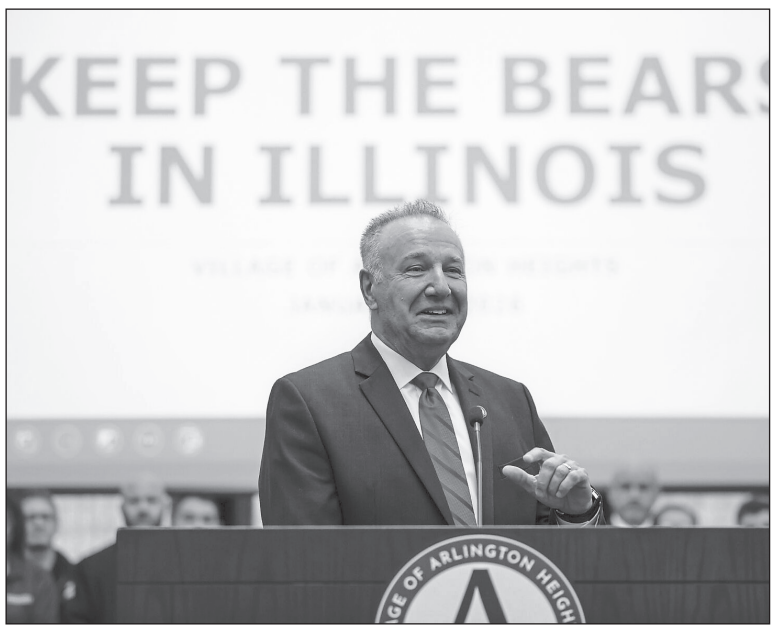
The team bought the 326-are site for $197 million in February of 2023. They announced plans for a $5 billion multi-use project to include hotels, restaurants, housing and parks.

When tax negotiations temporarily bogged down, the team shifted its focus to instead propose a new stadium on the lakefront in Chicago, to replace the team's current home at Soldier Field. That would have cost some $2.5 billion in taxpayer funding, but state leaders said they wouldn't do it, and the plan went nowhere.

After Illinois lawmakers failed to even consider the Mega Projects deal, the team surprised everyone by saying they were looking into possibly moving to northwest Indiana. Sites in Hammond, Gary and Portage have been proposed.

That got Illinois leaders' attention. This week, Gov. J.B. Pritzker said state officials have been meeting with the team and making progress. Pritzker repeatedly has said the state won't pay for a stadium, but would be open to paying for infrastructure, as is commonly done with big projects.

State legislative leaders also expressed recent openness to the Mega Projects deal. But Chicago lawmakers have suggested that any deal would need some way to pay off the remaining debt of more than $500 million for the 2003 renovation of Soldier Field.



Stacey Wescott / Chicago Tribune / TNS

Arlington Heights Mayor Jim Tinaglia speaks at a news conference about the Mega Project Bill and how to keep the Bears in Illinois on Jan. 16, in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

The Arlington Heights rally, sponsored by the non-profit suburban marketing group Chicago Northwest and a group of local residents and business leaders called Touchdown Arlington, is to feature local leaders calling for state lawmakers to pass the Mega Projects bill.

The Republican-majority Indiana House is expected to take up the Bears legislation, and possibly make changes, before lawmakers aim to adjourn February 27. Indiana House Speaker Todd Huston is sponsoring the bill, calling it a huge economic opportunity, but wants a commitment from the Bears before finalizing the legislation.

Any new enclosed stadium would compete with the retractable-roofed Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis for events like concerts, college playoffs and the Super Bowl. Any new taxes in northwest Indiana are not likely to be well-received by residents who are already protesting skyrocketing utility bills.

The Democratic-controlled Illinois General Assembly session ends May 31. A stadium would take about three years to build, and the Bears wanted to start construction last year.

Classifieds Marketplace

Niles, Niles Charter, Buchanan, Edwardsburg, Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Sister Lakes and the surrounding areas

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(269) 429-1396

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1420 S. 11th St.
Niles, MI 49120

Tues.-Sat. 10am-6pm

0900 LEGALS

CITY OF DOWAGIAC
BOARD OF REVIEW

The Organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 3:30 pm at the Dowagiac City Hall, 241 S Front Street, Dowagiac. No appeals of 2026 assessments will be heard at this time.

The Board of Review will hear appeals of 2026 assessments on Monday, March 16, 3:00pm- 9:00 pm and Tuesday, March 17, 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

Resident and non-resident property owners may protest by letter if received by noon on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

Estimated multipliers for each class of property for 2026 are as follows:
Agricultural…....1.0734
Commercial…..... 1.1193
Industrial…..1.0288
Residential…....1.1397

The tentative ratio for each class is 50%. The inflation rate multiplier for use in calculating 2026 capped value is 1.027

The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the City Clerk. If you require such aids or services and plan to appeal in person, please call the City.

Shalice Northrop,
City of Dowagiac Assessor

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
43rd CIRCUIT COURT

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION

CASE NO. 2026-000032-CZ

PLAINTIFF'S NAME:
Edwardsburg Estates MHC, LLC
C/O-Plaintiff's Attorney

PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY:
The Law Offices of Aaron D. Cox, PLLC
By: Aaron D. Cox (P69346)
/Elizabeth E. Ellison (P82098)
23820 Eureka Road Taylor, MI 48180
Phone: 734-287-3664

V.

DEFENDANTS:
The Unknown Heirs, Devisees, and Assigns of Albert Watchorn

TO THE ABOVE NAMED-DEFENDANTS IT IS ORDERED:
1.You are being sued in his court by the plaintiff to terminate ownership interests in the 1985 Skyline Park Manufactured Home (VIN MI5388R131V092625) and declare manufactured home abandoned. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before 28 days from the date of last service. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.
2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in THE DOWAGIAC DAILY NEWS (LEADER PUBLICATIONS) for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.
3. shall post a copy of this order in the courthouse, and at 69425 M-62, site # 26, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112 (Site of Manufactured Home).
4. A copy of this order shall be sent to THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS at the last-known address by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the date of last publication, and the affidavit of mailing shall be filed with this court.

Hon. Mark A. Herman (P34735)
JUDGE
DATE 01/30/2026

Abandon vehicle auction
February 19, 2026, at 8:30AM

2002 Suzuki
Vin JS3TX92V224112186
2003 Chevrolet
Vin 1GCCS19X63821C573
2011 Nissan
Vin JN8AF5MRXBT019301

Contact Road Runner Towing at 269-429-5080 Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM for viewing locations and times
Bidding starts at acquired fees
Social distancing rules still apply

Classifieds Make a Cash Connection!

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
Probate Court
Cass COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-026-DE

Court address & phone no.
60296 M62,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
269-445-4454

Estate of: Mariam Arlene Taylor
Date of birth: * 06/26/1932

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The descendent, Mariam Arlene Taylor died 09/14/2025. Creditors of the descendent are notified that all claims against the stated will be forever barred unless presented to William Taylor, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M62, Cassopolis and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 02/05/2026

Brendan Neal P73923
Attorney name Bar no.
511 Renaissance Dr, Ste 110
Address
St. Joesph, MI 49085
City, state, zip
269-983-5777
Telephone no.

William Taylor
Petitioner name
19466 E. US 12 Highway
Address
Edwardsburg, MI 49112
City, State, Zip
269-635-9511
Telephone no.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF REVIEW

The Organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 2:30 pm at the Jefferson Township Hall, 24725 Jefferson Center Street, Cassopolis. No appeals of the 2026 assessments will be heard at this time. The Board of Review will meet to hear appeals of 2026 assessments on Monday, March 9, 3:00 pm-9:00 pm and Monday, March 16, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Resident and non-resident property owners may protest by letter if received by noon on Monday, March 16, 2026. Estimated multipliers for each class of property for 2026 are as follows:

Agricultural…....1.0755
Commercial…....1.0996
Industrial…....1.0460
Residential…....1.0524

The tentative ratio for each class is 50%. The inflation rate multiplier for use in calculating 2026 capped value is 1.027

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the Township Clerk. If you require such aids or services and plan to appeal in person, please call the Township.

Shalice Northrop, Jefferson Township Assessor

0900 LEGALS

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday February 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Unit # Name
9/185 Candy Whitmire
10 Charmin Kelly
12 Jody & Michael Purdy
21 Cecilia Dunifin
22 Amber Bedenfield
28 Emalee Anderson
37 Kayla Johnson
67 Jerome Jankowiak
78 Douglas Demmond
82 Erica Pitone
92 Robert Procopi
94 Joshua Thompson
114 Tellie Doan
125/179 Steve Kelley
145/467/468 Michael Merritt
148 Gloster Johnson
168 Gene Robertson
183 Cindy Fisher
184/66 Mary Anderson
190/306/533 Linda Nilson
191 Alan Smith
192 Patricia Yoder
228/367 Shawnette Booker
258 Briana Coon
259 Rose Mitchell
273 Tony Pompey
278 Chelsie Carlyle
284 Kathleen Peterson
324 Woodrow Bowers
328 Kevin Reed
338 Frances Lamagro
342 Terrence Moss
346 DaMonica Williams
356 Chase Molica
379 Bobbie Helms
389 Parnell Jenkins
398 Andre Love
410/534 Rebecca Coleman
416 Heidi Arbri
424 John Fry
427 McCade Reese
429 Aaron Haynes
442 Dawn Hojara
451 Jean Fitch
452 Tyler Mahar
515 Danielle Flenar
528 Ron Haynes
530 Justin Landis
541 Nicole Hurt
545 Candy Whitmire
556 Matt Mazingo
557 Michelle Richter
606 Zoltan Kovach
608 Robert Conner
638 Britney Stanczyk
665 Rodney Prescott
677/567 Julie Potate
678 Kat Domer

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday February 28, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

13 Jody & Michael Purdy
14 Brian Flick
28 Lawson Fink
47 Jasmine Collett
54 Cynthia Swisher
57 Nathan Haynes

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday February 28, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

189A Erica Cutter
220A Susan Tanke
242A Angela Stites
165 Sharon Helms
168 Jerol Williams Jr.
227 Jennifer Nichols
228 Michael Hoadley
238/466 James Diss
250 Robert Clayton/ Jessica Vissik
263 Tamara Holmes
292 The Woodshed Crafts
312 Joseph Mayo
327 Robert Davis
346 Joe Jones
377 Christy Stevens
451 Jacob Pegouskie
476 Michael Gentry
481 Natosha Libertowski
483 Michael Donoho

0900 LEGALS

HOWARD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF REVIEW

The Organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 1:30 pm at the Howard Township Hall, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles. No appeals of 2026 assessments will be heard at this time. The Board of Review will hear appeals on the 2026 assessments on Tuesday, March 10, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and Wednesday, March 11, 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Resident and non-resident property owners may protest by letter if received by 5 pm on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. Estimated multipliers for each class of property for 2026 are as follows:

Agricultural…..... .9907
Commercial…..... 1.0927
Industrial…....1.0553
Residential…....1.0788

The tentative ratio for each class is 50%. The inflation rate multiplier for use in calculating 2026 capped value is 1.027

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the Township Clerk. If you require such aids or services and plan to appeal in person, please call the Township.

Shalice Northrop,
Howard Township Assessor

PUBLIC NOTICE AUCTION
Niles Storage, 2457 Yankee St. Niles, MI 49120
February 21 @ 4:00 pm
Owner's lien - overdue rents

Unit # Name:
#103 Jasmine Lipscomb
Misc household items, luggage and 15+ totes.

Wayne Township Cass County, Michigan
Notice of Budget Hearing

The Wayne Township Board will hold a Budget Hearing on Tuesday, March 2, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. in the Wayne Township Hall at 53950 Glenwood Rd. This Budget Hearing will be for the Township's fiscal year 2026-2027 Township residences are welcome to attend.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

The Township shall levy the maximum amount allowed by the law. Township residents who wish to receive a copy of the proposed Township budgets should contact the Township Clerk at 269-782-7017.

Kurt Reich, Clerk , Wayne Twp

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Sturgis, MI 49091

SAM SCHWARTZ
269-221-0159

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White Space Sells

WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING 2026 Wayne Township Board of Review will hear assessment appeals at the Township Hall 53950 Glenwood Road

Tuesday March 3rd' 2026, 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, Organizational meeting. No appeals
Monday March 9th, 2026, 2:00P. to 5:00P. & 6:00P. to 9:00P.
Friday March 13th, 2026, 9:00A. To 12:00 Noon & 1:00P. to 4:00P.

Residents & Non-Residents may send letters of protest to the Board of Review, and all letters must be received by March 13th, 2026

Tentative	Ratio %	Factor
Agriculture	47.04	1.0629
Commercial	46.13	1.0839
Industrial	48.13	1.0389
Residential	48.12	1.0391
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Assessments have been adjusted to result in an anticipated multiplier of 1.0000 for each class. With proposal A in effect the Taxable Values, excluding new construction and ownership transfers, are capped at the rate of inflation, 2.7%.

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Jayneth Nelson, a married woman
Original Mortgagee: Household Finance Corporation III
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2018-B
Date of Mortgage: March 15, 2002
Date of Mortgage Recording: March 20, 2002
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $31,566.80
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Vandalia, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 20 and 21, 3rd Addition, Village of Vandalia
Common street address (if any): 18164 W State St, Vandalia, MI 49095-9701
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 14, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1584134 (02-14)(03-07)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Stefon Luckey, a single man, whose address is 215 W. State Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Rocket Mortgage LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, being a mortgage dated September 10, 2021, and recorded on September 16, 2021 in Liber 1203 Page 1781, Cass County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated November 11, 2025 and recorded on November 13, 2025 in Liber 1268 Page 1460, Cass County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SIXTY-NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR AND 77/100 DOLLARS ($69,534.77). Said premises are situated in the Village of Cassopolis, County of Cass, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOT NUMBER 4 AND THE WEST ONE-HALF OF LOT NUMBER 9, BLOCK 1 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST, IN THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLLS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 54 OF DEEDS, PAGE 575, CASS COUNTY RECORDS. Street Address: 215 W. State Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: February 14, 2026, For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 26 6967 (02-14)(03-07)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 4, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Tia Howard, an unmarried woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union
Date of Mortgage: November 2, 2012
Date of Mortgage Recording: November 7, 2012
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $41,234.27
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Dowagiac, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the Northwest corner of and at the intersection of the North line of Telegraph Street and the West line of Hamilton Street in Hamilton's Addition to City of Dowagiac; thence West on the North line of Telegraph Street, 92 feet; thence North 8 rods; thence East 92 feet to the West line of Hamilton Street; thence South on the West line of Hamilton Street 8 rods to beginning.
Also commencing 4 rods West of the Northwest corner of Lot 223, Patrick Hamilton's Addition to the City of Dowagiac; thence running West 8 rods; thence South 4 rods; thence East 8 rods to Hamilton Street; thence North along West line of Hamilton Street, 4 rods to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 302 W Telegraph St, Dowagiac, MI 49047-1132
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 31, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515 1582760 (01-31)(02-21)

INVITATION TO BID
Lawn Mowing, Flower Bed Maintenance, and Leaf Removal Services
The Dowagiac Union School District shall accept sealed bids for Lawn Mowing, Flower Bed Maintenance, and Leaf Removal Services. Bids shall be accepted until 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at:

Dowagiac Union Schools Administrative Offices
243 South Front Street
Dowagiac MI 49047

All bids should be clearly marked "Lawn Mowing, Flower Bed Maintenance, and Leaf Removal Services". At 1:00 p.m., all bids will be publicly opened A pre-bid meeting will be held on March 10, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Maintenance Building, 29100 Pokagon Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047 Bid documents may be picked up at:

Dowagiac Union Schools Administration Offices
243 South Front Street
Dowagiac, MI 49047

Jamie Williamson, Maintenance Supervisor
Dowagiac Union Schools
29100 Pokagon Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047
Phone: 269-782-4480, jwilliamson@dowagiacschools.org

PUBLICATION NOTICE
In the Matter of the James Eugene Vincent and Mary Inez Vincent Revocable Trust Social Security No. xxx-xx-1166
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS;
Your interest in the property of the deceased may be barred or affected by this Notice.
NOTICE: Please take notice that James Eugene Vincent died on January 20, 2013, and Mary Inez Vincent December 23, 2025. At the time of their deaths, there were no assets requiring administration through Court proceedings. All assets were jointly held, had designed succession or were part of the Revocable Trust of James Eugene Vincent and Mary Inez Vincent. Michael S. Vincent is the Trustee. The deceased lived at 3740 Buffalo Road, Niles, MI 49120.
Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the deceased will be forever barred unless presented to the Trustee or the attorney for the Trust or to both within four (4) months of the date of publication of this Notice. Notice is further given that the Trust assets will then be assigned to persons designated in the Trust.
Dated: February 9, 2026

John R. Colip (P25250)
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
Phone: (269)695-3849

Michael S. Vincent
3740 Buffalo Road
Niles, MI 49120
Phone: (815)641-6097

2026 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW ONTWA TOWNSHIP HALL 26225 US 12 E EDWARDSBURG, MI 49112

BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBERS ONLY:
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 @ 11:00 AM
Organizational meeting to approve the Assessment roll
NO APPEALS are heard during this meeting.

The Ontwa Township Board of Review for 2026 will be held on the following dates:
Monday, March 9TH, 2026 – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM - Appeals Hearing
Tuesday, March 10TH, 2026 – 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM - Appeals Hearing

Please call the Ontwa Township Hall @ (269) 663-2347 Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM to set an appointment and get any additional information.

Ontwa 2026 Factors

Class	Study Ratio	Equality	Factor
101---Ag	43.78%	50.00%	1.142
201---Com	47.37%	50.00%	1.056
301---Ind	46.18%	50.00%	1.083
401---Res	47.09%	50.00%	1.062

The Board of Review may meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2026 assessments. **Residents that are not currently in area can protest by letter, provided the letter is received no later than 2:00 PM on March 10th, 2026**
American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 7 days' notice. Please contact the Township Hall @ (269) 663-2347.
Board of Review Members: Mike Mroczek, Patricia Bellaire & Patty Lauten
Meryl Christensen (Supervisor)—Board of Review Secretary

THE VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR THE MI NEIGNBORHOOD APPLCIATION
Notice is hereby given that The Village of Cassopolis will hold a public hearing on Friday, Feb. 27th, at 9 a.m., to receive public comment and afford citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on the proposed application for funding under the Michigan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – MI Neighborhood Program.
Hearing Location and Time
Village of Cassopolis Municipal Complex, 121 N. Disbrow, Cassopolis, MI.
The Village of Cassopolis intends to apply for CDBG funding to implement a Homeowner Rehabilitation Program to assist eligible low- and moderate-income homeowners with necessary home repairs. Eligible activities may include health and safety repairs, code compliance improvements, accessibility upgrades, and energy efficiency improvements. The program will serve households at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).
100% of assisted housing units will be occupied by low- or moderate-income households, as required for homeowner rehabilitation activities. Zero persons are anticipated to be displaced as a result of the proposed activities.
The Village of Cassopolis has received a CDBG Funding Designation of $472,000 from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and must submit a full application by May 7, 2026. No choice-limiting actions may occur prior to grant award and environmental clearance.
A copy of the proposed application will be available for public review at the Village of Cassopolis Municipal Complex, 121 N. Disbrow, Cassopolis, MI 49031, during normal business hours. Written comments may be submitted in writing through May 6, 2026, at 5 pm.
The Village of Cassopolis has previously received CDBG funding and successfully completed CDBG projects.
Contact
Emilie LaGrow, Village Manager
269-445-8648, manager@cassopolis-mi.us
ADA Notice
The Village of Cassopolis will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the Village Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Village of Cassopolis by writing or calling.

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Blake M. Anderson and Madeline G. Gordon
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: February 24, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: February 27, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $259,966.58
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Vandalia, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: The South 1/2 of the following described parcel: Commencing 13.43 chains North of the East 1/4 post of Section 27, Town 6 South, Range 14 West; thence North on Section line 3.03 chains; thence West 3.29 chains; thence South along Mill Race to point West of beginning; thence East to beginning.
ALSO, The North 1/2 of the following described parcel: Commencing 13.43 chains North of the East 1/4
post of Section 27, Town 6 South, Range 14 West; thence North on Section line 3.03 chains; thence West 3.29 chains; thence South along Mill Race to point West of beginning; thence East to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 60312 N Main St, Vandalia, MI 49095-9505
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 14, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515 1584318 (02-14)(03-07)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Penn Township Board of Review will convene at the Township Hall, located at 60717 Main St, Vandalia, Michigan, on the following dates and times:

Organizational Meeting: (No appeals will be heard at this meeting)
Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Appeal Hearings:
• Tuesday, March 10, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
• Friday, March 13, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet to address questions, hear protests, and equalize the 2026 assessments. Residents may also submit protests to the Board of Review by letter. Written appeals must include a completed Board of Review Petition Form (Form L-4035), which can be provided upon request.

Appointments are recommended and can be made by contacting the assessor. Walk-ins will also be accepted.

IMPORTANT:
Residents submitting written protests must ensure they are received by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2026.

The Township will provide necessary and reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities at Board of Review meetings with at least seven (7) days' notice. Please contact the assessor for assistance.

Contact Information: Don Jollay, MAAO
Phone: (815) 546-8288, Email: PennAssessor@gmail.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 69, Vandalia, MI 49095

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on MARCH 4, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Pamela Mersereau, unmarried woman, to Fifth Third Bank, National Association, Mortgagee, dated November 2, 2022 and recorded November 18, 2022 in Liber 1226, Page 465 Cass County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Three Thousand Sixty-Six and 91/100 Dollars ($43,066.91).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on MARCH 4, 2026.
Said premises are located in the City of Dowagiac, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot 114, Hopkin's Addition to the City of Dowagiac, Cass County, Michigan, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 16, Cass County Records.
401 1st Ave, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 31, 2026
File No. 26-000070
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (01-31)(02-21)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, March 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Robert A. Puza, Single to Fifth Third Bank National Association f/k/a Fifth Third Bank, Mortgagee, dated March 25, 2019, and recorded on April 17, 2019, in Liber 1153, Page 1631, Cass County Records, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Four and 32/100 ($18,874.32) including interest at the rate of 5.49000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of LaGrange, Cass County, Michigan, and are described as: Lots 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131 and 132, Kelsey Lake Terrace, according to the recorded plat thereof in Liber 1 of Plats Page 170 in Register of Deeds of Cass County, Michigan. Commonly known as: 56896 SUNNYSIDE AVE, CASSOPOLIS, MI 49031 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: February 14, 2026, Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Fifth Third Bank National Association f/k/a Fifth Third Bank 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00945-1
(02-14)(03-07)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, March 11, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Jamal B. Smith to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Ruoff Mortgage Company, Inc, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated December 7, 2020, and recorded on January 12, 2021, in Liber 1188, Page 32, Cass County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated January 12, 2026 and recorded January 20, 2026 in Liber 1271, Page 975, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Six and 06/100 ($137,886.06) including interest at the rate of 3.37500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of SILVERCREEK, Cass County, Michigan, and are described as: Unit 19 in Indian Lake Woods Condominium, according to the Master Deed thereof, as recorded in Liber 847, Page 137, Cass County Records, and any amendments thereto and designated as Cass County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 12, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended. Commonly known as: 33602 SASSAFRAS LN, EAU CLAIRE, MI 49111 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: February 7, 2026, Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00745-1 (02-07)(02-28)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on MARCH 4, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Lucas Stover and Ashley Stover, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Zillow Home Loans, LLC, Mortgagee, dated August 11, 2023 and recorded August 21, 2023 in Liber 1236, Page 705 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by NewRez LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Five and 80/100 Dollars ($214,245.80).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on MARCH 4, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Ontwa, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot(s) 1 of EAGLE HEIGHTS according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1-E of Plats, Page 268 of Cass County Records.
69002 Brady Rd, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 31, 2026
File No. 26-000493
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (01-31)(02-21)

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC, MAY BE DEEMED A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, GA 30004 ph:470-321-7112 Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on February 25, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): MATTHEW SWISHER. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by MATTHEW SWISHER to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR MORTGAGE RESEARCH CENTER, LLC DBA VETERANS UNITED HOME LOANS, original Mortgagee, for a mortgage dated July 27, 2023, and recorded on August 08, 2023 in Liber 1235 Page 2027 in the Register of Deeds in and for Cass County. Said mortgage was assigned by said Mortgagee to PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC as documented by an assignment of mortgage dated March 12, 2025, and recorded on March 12, 2025, in Liber 1257 Page 1059 in the Register of Deeds in and for Cass County, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $306,311.64. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the Circuit Court within CASS County, Michigan on February 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Said premises are located in the city of DOWAGIAC in CASS County, Michigan and are described as: LAND SITUATED IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF CASS, CITY OF DOWAGIAC: LOT 224 AND 1 ROD OFF THE SOUTH SIDE OF LOT 225, IN PATRICK HAMILTON'S FOURTH ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF DOWAGIAC, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN. Property Address: 106 HAMILTON ST. DOWAGIAC MI, 49047 Tax ID No. 14-160-200-492-00 The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If this property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the Mortgage sale or to the Mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC Mortgagee/Assignee January 24, 2026, ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Mortgagee/Assignee 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Telephone: 470-321-7112 Facsimile: 404-393-1425 Service Email: MIFCLTeam@raslg.com (01-24)(02-14)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on MARCH 11, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Bernice L. Crawford, a single woman, to The CIT Group/Sales Financing, Inc., a Delaware Corporation, Mortgagee, dated November 9, 1998, and recorded November 12, 1998, in Liber 681, Page 1291 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Lehman ABS Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Asset-Backed Certificate Trust, Series 2001-B, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Two and 51/100 Dollars ($15,622.51).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on MARCH 11, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Calvin, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
The East half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, excepting therefrom, the South 1105.5 feet thereof. Also excepting therefrom, the North 11.65 5/8 chains thereof. Also excepting therefrom, Beginning 6.65 5/8 chains South of the Northeast corner of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West; thence South 20 rods; thence West 80 rods; thence North 20 rods; thence East 80 rods to the point of beginning. Also excepting therefrom, The North four (4) Rods of the south Fifty-one (51) Rods of the East half of the Northeast quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, Calvin Township, Cass County, Michigan. Also excepting therefrom, The North ten (10) Rods of the south forty-seven (47) Rods of the East half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, Calvin Township, Cass County, Michigan. Also excepting therefrom, Commencing 51 Rods North of the Southwest corner of the East half of the Northeast quarter; thence North 264 feet; thence East to the Section Line; thence South 264 feet; thence West to the point of beginning. Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West. Also excepting therefrom, Part of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, described as: From the Northeast corner of said Section 13, measure North 89 degrees 25'20" West, along the North line of said Section, 1328.03 feet to the Northwest corner of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of said Section; thence South along the East Eighth line of said Section, 769.32 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence South 89 degrees 25'20" East, 182.00 feet; thence South 125.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 25'20" West, 182.00 feet to the East Eighth line of said Section; thence North along the Eighth line, 125.00 feet to the point of beginning.
64277 Union Rd, Vandalia, Michigan 49095
The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: February 7, 2026
File No. 25-015638
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (02-07)(02-28)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 4, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Andrea DePoy, a single woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC
Date of Mortgage: March 21, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: March 28, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $208,133.61
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Edwardsburg, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 2 in Pleasant Place Addition to the Village of Edwardsburg, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1-F of Plats, Page 283, Cass County Records. Common street address (if any): 27100 US Highway 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112-9680
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 31, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515 1583008 (01-31)(02-21)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on 2/25/2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Names of Mortgagor(s): Jamie Stockton. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Strong Home Mortgage, LLC. Date of mortgage: 8/1/2023. Mortgage recorded on 8/10/2023 as Document No. 205443, in Liber 1235, Page 2286. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: $199,202.63 Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: LAND SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MILTON, COUNTY OF CASS, STATE OF MICHIGAN, IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT NUMBER 15, IRONWOOD HEIGHTS, MILTON TOWNSHIP, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1-H OF PLATS, PAGE 391; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE EXTENSION OF THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 15, 200.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH THE WEST ONE-EIGHTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 200.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 200.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF LOT 14 OF SAID SUBDIVISION; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOTS 14 AND 15 OF SAID SUBDIVISION, 200.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING IN THE SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST, COUNTY OF CASS, STATE OF MICHIGAN. TOGETHER WITH A NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS TO AND FROM SAID PROPERTY OVER AND ACROSS A 66-FOOT-WIDE PRIVATE ROAD LYING SOUTH OF AND ADJACENT TO THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND EXTENDING EASTERLY TO IRONWOOD DRIVE. Commonly known as 33764 Judy Lane, Niles, MI 49120. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of Notice: 01/24/2026. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-25-00574 (01-24)(02-14)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 a.m., on March 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. Default has occurred in the conditions of a Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by DANIEL OSBAN, a single man, as Mortgagor(s), to United Federal Credit Union, as Mortgagee. The Mortgage is dated October 28, 2022, and was recorded November 1, 2022, at Liber 1225, Page 683 of Cass County Records. The amount claimed to be due on said Mortgage and unpaid at the date of this Notice is TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE AND 94/100 ($250,929.94) DOLLARS, including interest on the applicable indebtedness at a rate of 5.875% per annum. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and its related note and which are permitted under Michigan law after the date of this Notice. No legal or equitable proceedings have been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, and the power of sale in the Mortgage has become operative by reason of the default. At the date and time as referenced previously in this Notice, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the property herein described, or some part of them, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on the Mortgage, along with interest due, the legal costs and charges of sale as allowed by statute and/or the Mortgage, and any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays on or prior to the date of said sale. The property mentioned and described in the Mortgage, as located in the Township of Ontwa, County of Cass, and State of Michigan, are more particularly described as follows: The South 55 feet of Outlot "B", Lawndale, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1, page 226, Cass County Records. Excepting Beginning at the Southeast corner thereof; thence North 89° 56' West along the Northerly line of Oak Street, 165 feet; thence Northerly, 55 feet; thence South 89° 56' East, 165 feet to the West line of Cherry Lane; thence South, 55 feet to the point of beginning; Address: 24268 Oak Street, Edwardsburg, MI 49112; Tax Parcel No.: 14-090-185-020-00; together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures; all easements, rights of way, streets, roads, alleys, and public places, privileges, and appurtenances, public or private, now or later used in connection with the premises; and all rights to make divisions of the land that are exempt from the platting requirements of all applicable land division or platting acts, as amended from time to time. Attention Purchasers: the foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or to rescind this sale at any time. In that event, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest. If the mortgaged property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from date of sale, unless the redemption period is shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3241a or MCL 600.3238, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of sale or as otherwise provided by statute. DATED: February 14, 2026, ANDREW W. BARNES (P70571) BUTZEL LONG P.C. ATTORNEYS FOR UNITED FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 317 Center Street South Haven, MI 49090 269-287-2010 (02-14)(03-07)

PUBLIC NOTICE SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP 2026 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The Silver Creek Township March Board of Review for 2026 will be held at the Silver Creek Township Hall, 32764 Dixon St, on the following dates:

March 3rd, 2026 (10:15a-11:15a) = **Organizational Meeting-No Appeals**
March 9th, 2026 (9:00a-12:00p & 1:00p-4:00 pm) = **Appeal Hearing***
March 11th, 2026 (2:00p-5:00p & 6:00p-9:00p) = **Appeal Hearing***
March 14th, 2026 (9:00a-12:00 noon) = **Appeal Hearing**

* By Board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 14th, 2026

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2026 are as follows:

Class	Ratio	Factor	Class	Ratio	Factor
*Agricultural	48.54%	1.0301	*Commercial	45.32%	1.1033
*Residential	46.08%	1.0851	*Industrial	42.68%	1.1715
*Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000			

American With Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon (5) days' notice. Contact: (Jess Honn 269-424-3025 x4)
Anne Richmond Jess Honn, Assessor Clerk

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on MARCH 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Margaret L. Laird and Dianna L. Brugh, both unmarried, and Rita A. Baker and George A. Baker, married, joint tenants, to Beneficial Michigan Inc., Mortgagee, dated August 27, 2007, and recorded September 6, 2007, in Liber 964, Page 2386 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Legacy Mortgage Asset Trust 2021-GS3, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Five and 54/100 Dollars ($80,455.54).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on MARCH 18, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Howard, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 28, TOWN 7 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST, WHICH IS NORTH 363.00 FEET FROM THE EAST QUARTER POST OF SAID SECTION; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION AND CENTERLINE OF LEET ROAD, 150.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89° 41' WEST, 330.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH, 150.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89° 41' EAST, 330.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. RESERVING AN EASEMENT OVER THE WESTERLY 33 FEET THEREOF FOR FUTURE ROADWAY PURPOSES.
1096 Leet Rd, Niles, Michigan 49120
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 31, 2026
File No. 26-000257
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (01-31)(02-21)

STATE OF MICHIGAN BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY CASE NO. U-21968

· Indiana Michigan Power Company request Michigan Public Service Commission for accounting authority to change the methodology for allocating between Indiana and Michigan retail

jurisdictions the costs of current generation resources.

· The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.

· You may call or write Indiana Michigan Power Company, 2425 Meadowbrook Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022, 517-367-1242, for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the documents at the offices of Indiana Michigan Power Company or on the

Commission's website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/.

· A pre-hearing will be held:

DATE/TIME: Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 9:00 AM

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Christopher S. Saunders

LOCATION: Video/Teleconference

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may participate. Persons needing any assistance to participate or who are seeking access to the video/teleconference should contact the Administrative Law Judge's secretary at (517) 284-8130 or by email at LARA- MOAHR-PSC@michigan.gov in advance of the hearing.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a pre-hearing to consider Indiana Michigan Power Company's (I&M) October 6, 2025 Amended Application requesting the Commission to: 1) approve I&M's proposed methodology for how the jurisdictional allocation of the costs of its Current Generation Resources will be determined in the future including the proposed allocation of fuel costs for Current Generation Resources effective June 1, 2025; 2) conduct such further proceedings as may be necessary and advisable to achieve consistency between Michigan and Indiana; and 3) approve I&M such other and additional relief as the Commission may deem appropriate and proper.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by February 19, 2026. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Indiana Michigan Power Company's attorney, Jason T. Hanselman, 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

The prehearing is scheduled to be held remotely by video conference or teleconference.

Persons filing a petition to intervene will be advised of the process for participating in the hearing.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of their wish to make a statement of position. Mich Admin Code, R 792.10413 (Rule 413).

Any person wishing to file a public comment may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. U-21968. Statements may be emailed to: LARA-MPSC-edockets@michigan.gov. Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Executive Secretary at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; and Parts 1 & 4 of the Administrative Hearing Rules of the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, Mich. Admin Code, R 792.10106(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7); R 792.10121; and R 792.10401 through R 792.10448. U-21968

DEALS ON WHEELS

$0 DOWN

WHOLESALE PRICING FOR EVERYONE!

2014 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY

Just in!! Fully service and ready to go

Only $6,900

2004 FREIGHTLINER THOMAS

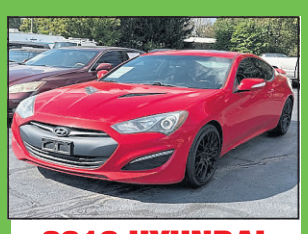
Ready to work on a budget.

Only $10,000

2017 CHEVY EXPRESS 2500

Cargo rack, full power options

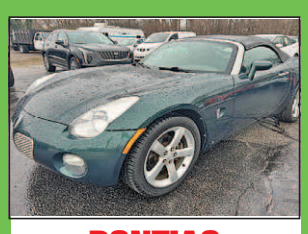
Wholesale $13,700



2013 HYUNDAI GENESIS COUPE

Very rare, R-track pack

Only $13,900



PONTIAC SOLSTICE

Low miles, great shape... Nice car to drive to car shows.

Only $13,900

2019 DODGE CARAVAN SXT

Wholesale to EV-ERYONE!

Wholesale $14,600

2018 FORD EXPLORER

Save thousands!

Wholesale $14,620

2021 CHEVY MALIBU LS

Just in!! Great gas mileage

Wholesale $14,825

2003 FORD THUNDERBIRD

Just in!! Showroom new

Only $14,900

2022 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER ACTIV

Just in!! One owner.

Wholesale $16,500

2021 CHEVY TRAX LT AWD

Just in and fully loaded! Only 61k miles.

Wholesale $16,800

2019 KIA STINGER GT

It goes like a bat out of Haiti

Wholesale $18,700

2022 RAM 1500 CLASSIC 4 X 4

Ready to get to work at a low

Wholesale $18,700

2019 HONDA HRV AWD

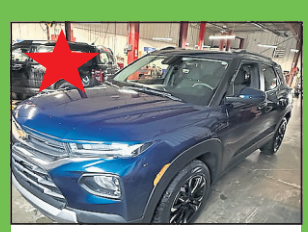
Wholesale priced

Wholesale $19,125

2024 NISSAN SENTRA

Just in!! Like new for less!

Wholesale $19,775



2022 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT

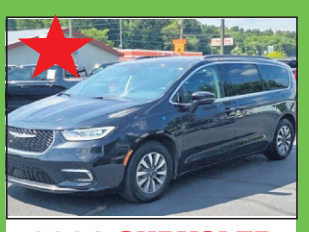
Just in!! One owner, AWD with only 58k miles!

Wholesale $19,875

2022 KEYSTONE CT3400

Like new but half the price

Wholesale $22,200



2021 CHRYSLER PACIFICA

Just in!! Low miles.

Wholesale $23,700

2023 NISSAN ALTIMA SR

1 owner, just in! Like new with a

$23,900

2025 MAZDA 3

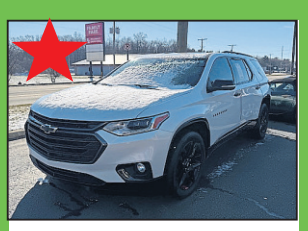
Like new, one own-er, only 17k miles!

Wholesale $25,500

2018 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCAB

Just in!! Ecoboost with only 90k miles

Wholesale $27,900



2021 CHEVY TRAVERSE PRE-MIER

Just in!! Fully loaded with all the options!

Wholesale $29,500

2023 CHRYSLER 300

Just in, off lease. 12,000 miles with every option

Wholesale $29,800

2022 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LT

1 owner, like new and 20” wheels!

$33,650

2020 CHEVY TAHOE LT

Just in and wholesale priced to move out

Wholesale $34,800

2024 FORD E-350 CARGO

16ft box trucks with miles in the 40’s. Like new for half the price. 2 left!

Wholesale $37,900

2020 RAM 3500 TRADESMAN

Rust free, Cummins diesel, flat bed

Wholesale $39,500

2022 CHEVY SILVERADO LT 1500

4 x 4, Only 26k miles, Like new!! One owner.

Wholesale $39,900

2024 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED

One owner! Like new with all the options and only 29k miles!

Wholesale $39,800

2024 FORD F-350 CREW XLT 4X4

Dually, diesel and mint condition!

Wholesale $58,750

SEE A STAR IT’S A 1 OWNER CAR

269-783-3325 • M-51 DOWAGIAC